DOLL - vol 1
by Mitsukazu MIHARA

Vol 2 coming up soon.
Don't have the rest though,
so that'll be it.

Kanzashi

DOLL
MITSUKAZU MIHARA
I

Manga
Science-Fiction
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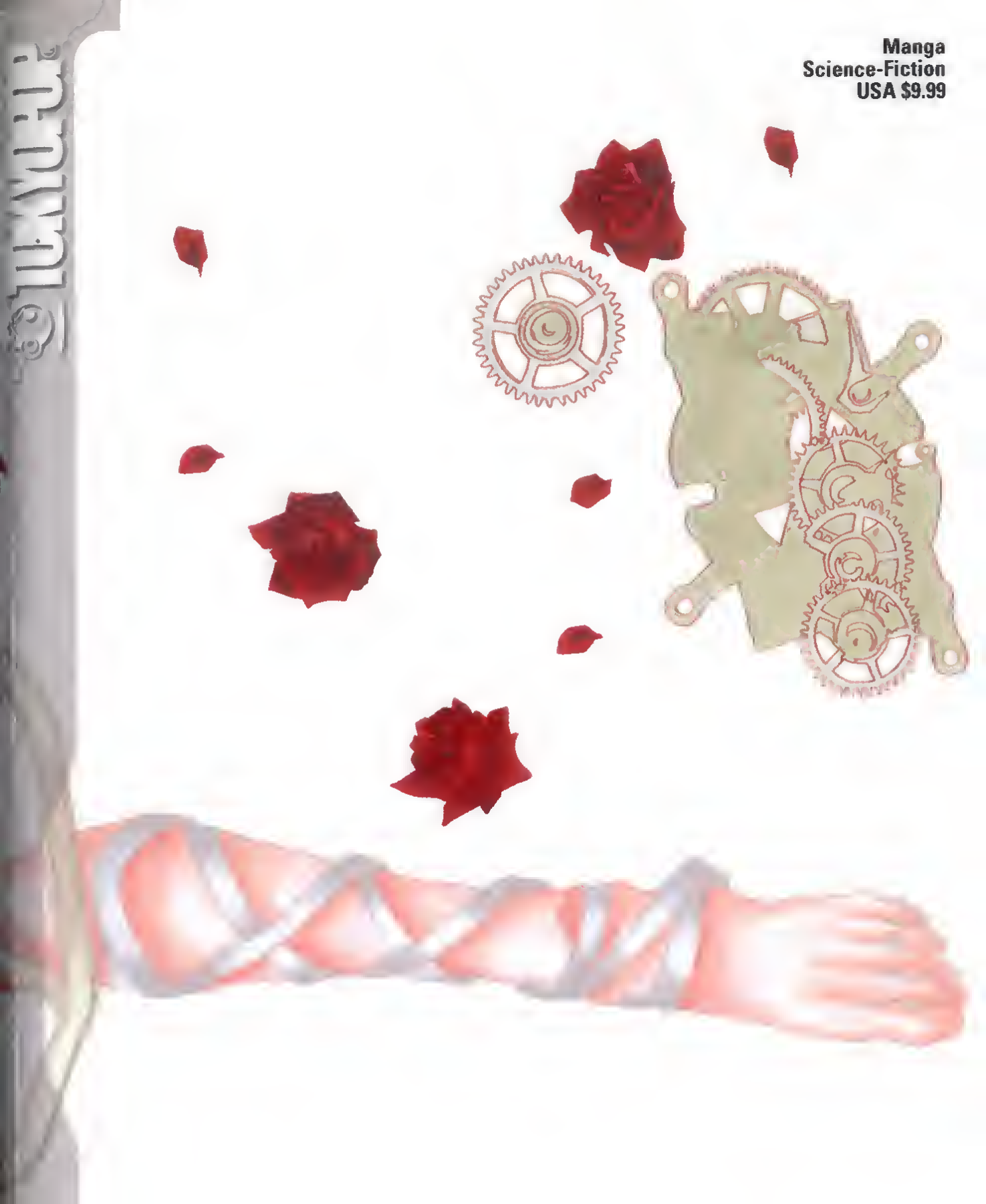

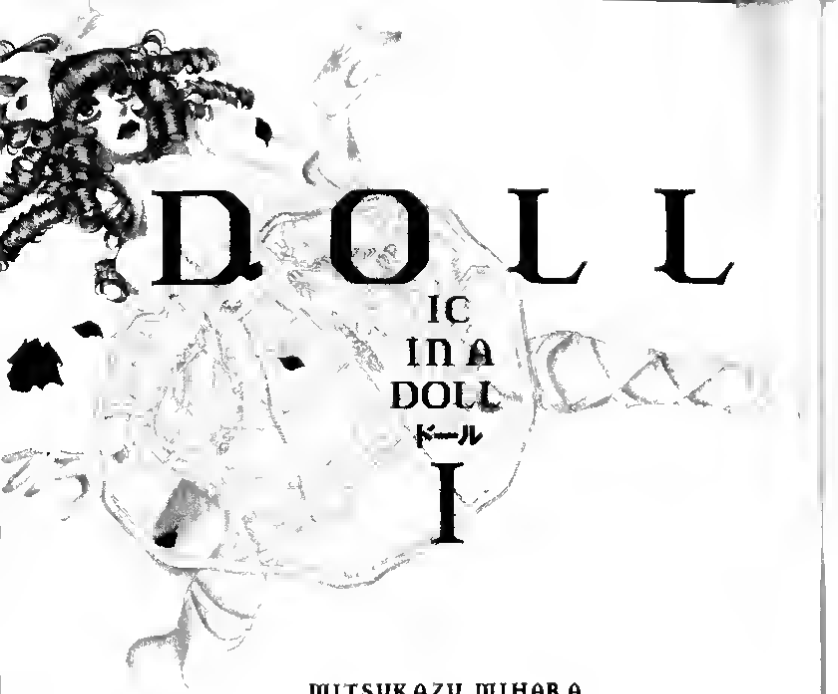

DOLL

IC IN A DOLL

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I

MITSUKAZU MIHARA

三原ミツカズ

In these haunting tales, dolls—human-like androids—have an uncanny way of working themselves into the lives of their masters: A woman develops an unusual closeness to a doll that she takes beyond the grave...
A man wants to make his doll into the perfect human lover...A father buys his son a doll to help him get over the death of his mother. ***Doll*** examines the question of what it means to be truly human.

ISBN 1591827108

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DOLL

VOLUME 1

BY

MITSUKAZU MIHARA

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Doll Volume 1

created by Mitsukazu Mihara

Cover design by Suzuki Seiichi Design Office

Translation - Yuki N. Johnson
English Adaptation - Simon Furman
Retouch and Lettering - Yoohae Yang
Cover Layout - Patrick Hook

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A TOKYOPOP® Manga

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ISBN: 1-59182-710-8

First TOKYOPOP printing: August 2004
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
Printed in the USA

LIST 1

DOLL 1

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LIST 1	a nameless doll
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LIST 4	KAORU
LIST 5	AYAKO
LIST 6	a maid servant

1. a nameless doll

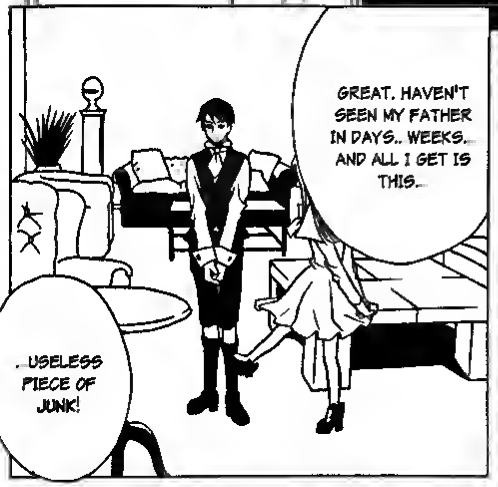
YES. BEAUTIFUL.
SO. DO I LOOK BEAUTIFUL?
YES. SORRY.
YOU SAID EXACTLY THE SAME THING FORTY YEARS AGO!
OH! ALL THIS TIME, AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED HOW TO PROPERLY COMPLIMENT A WOMAN!

...ALL I HAVE IS THE PAST.

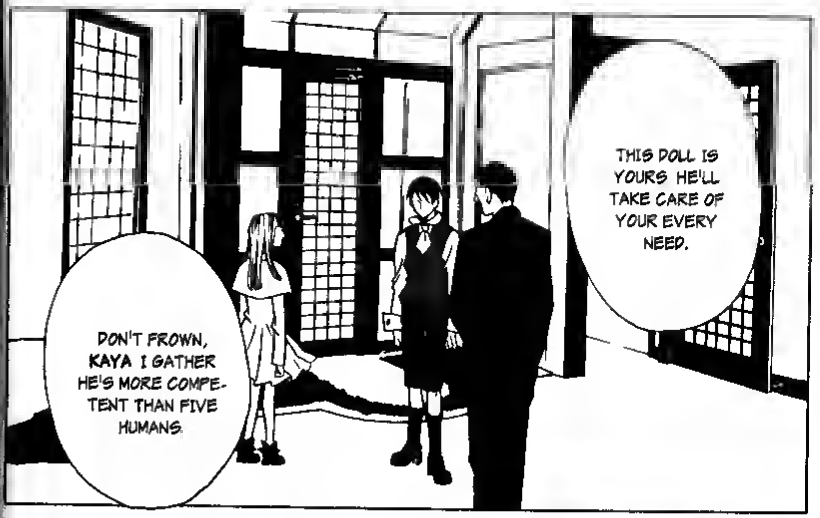
SO MATTER OF FACT. SO.. MECHANICAL HUMAN IN APPEARANCE ALONE
YES.
YOU SAID EXACTLY THE SAME THING FORTY YEARS AGO.
I WISH..
YOU COULD AT LEAST SMILE THE LATEST DOLL MODELS COME WITH REAL EMOTIONS, DID YOU KNOW THAT?

FORTY LONG YEARS AND YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED..

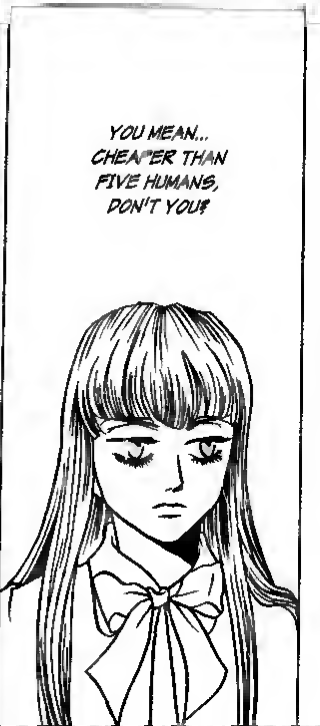
...WHILE I HAVE BECOME AN OLD WOMAN. YOU'RE THE LUCKY ONE, FROZEN IN TIME AT MY AGE...

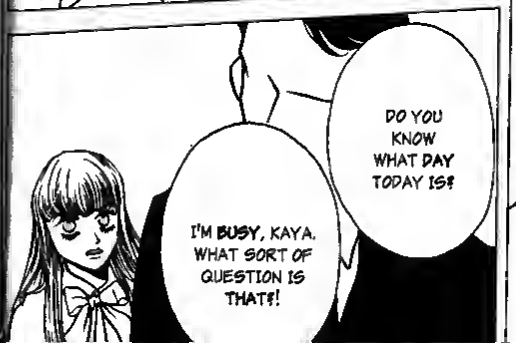

GREAT. HAVEN'T SEEN MY FATHER IN DAYS.. WEEKS.. AND ALL I GET IS THIS..
..USELESS PIECE OF JUNK!

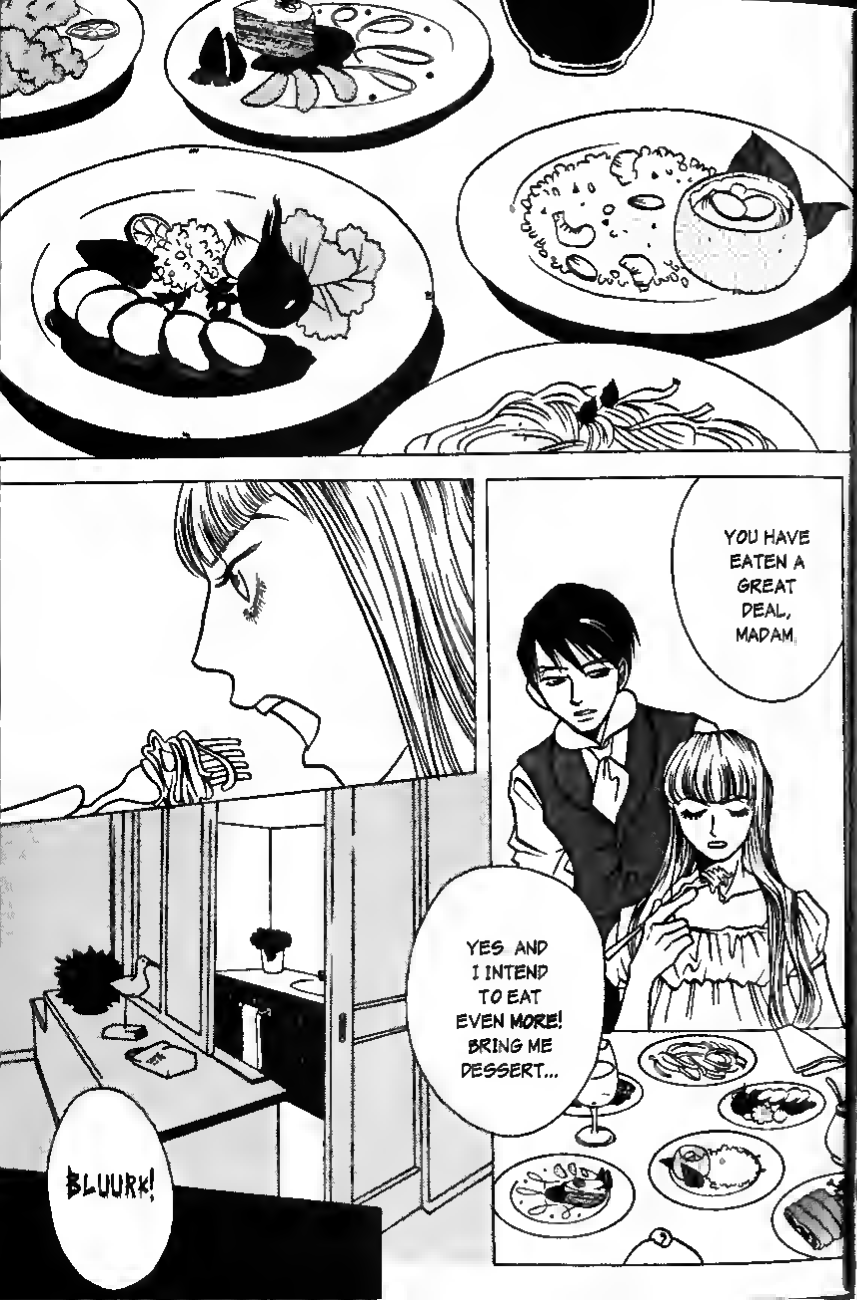
IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY? THAT YOU'LL DO ANYTHING I TELL YOU?
HMM. I'VE SEEN THOSE SG CORPORATION COMMERCIALS...
CLEAN MY SHOES WITH YOUR TONGUE.
THERE ARE SOME LIMITATIONS, BUT...

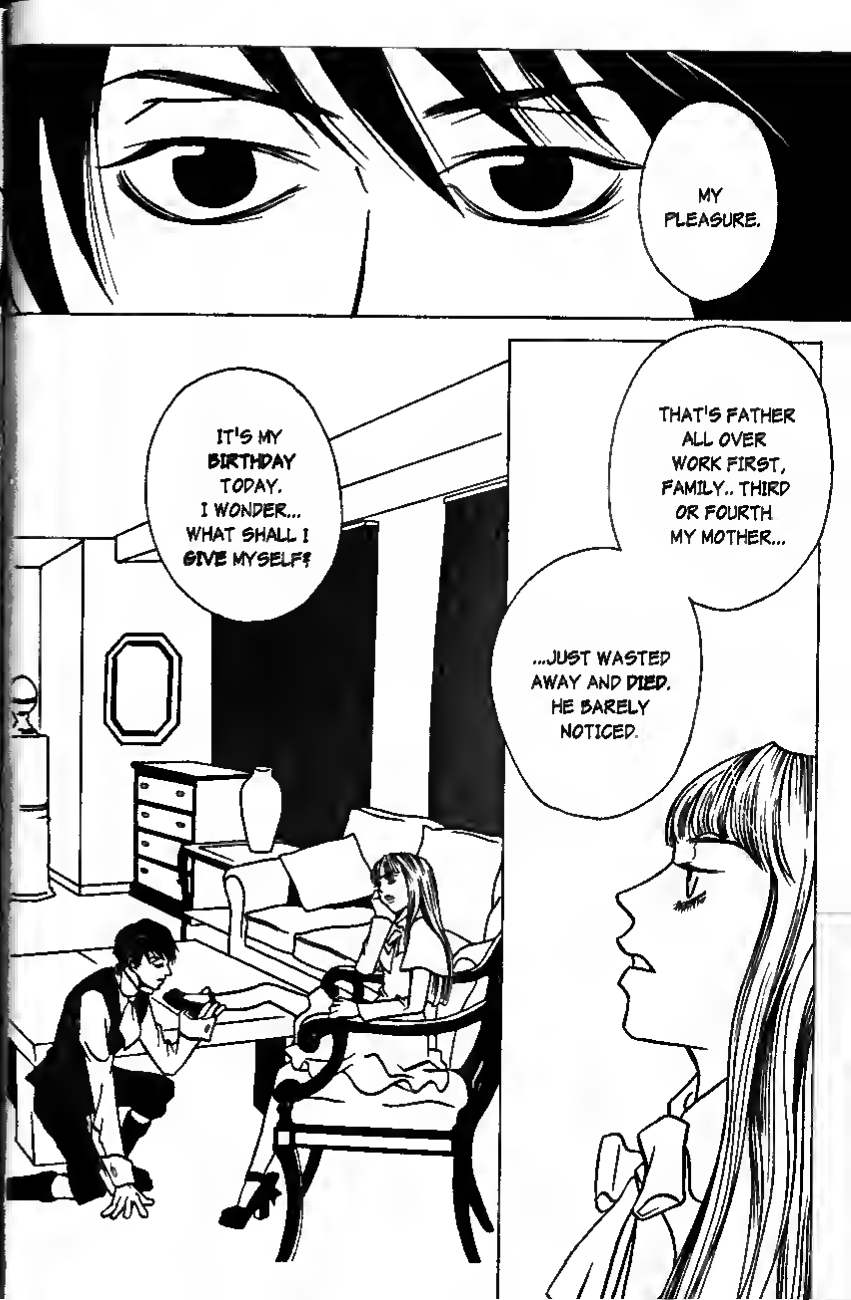

THIS DOLL IS YOURS HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR EVERY NEED.
DON'T FROWN, KAYA I GATHER HE'S MORE COMPETENT THAN FIVE HUMANS.

MM? LOOK.. I'M LATE KATSU. CALL HIDAKA, LET HIM KNOW I'LL BE AT THE KAGURAZOA OFFICE TODAY
YES, SIR
PAPA ?


YOU MEAN... CHEAPER THAN FIVE HUMANS, DON'T YOU?

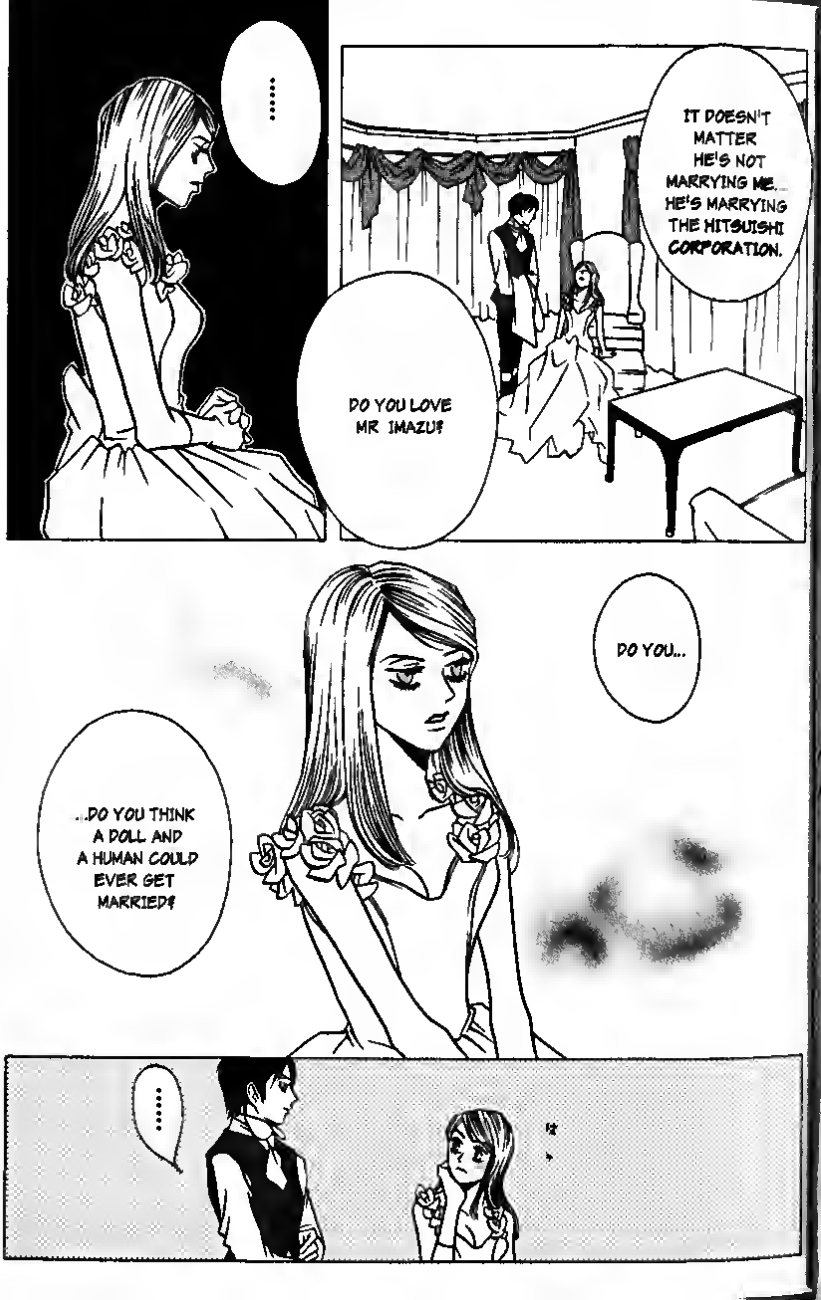

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY TODAY IS?
I'M BUSY, KAYA. WHAT SORT OF QUESTION IS THAT?!

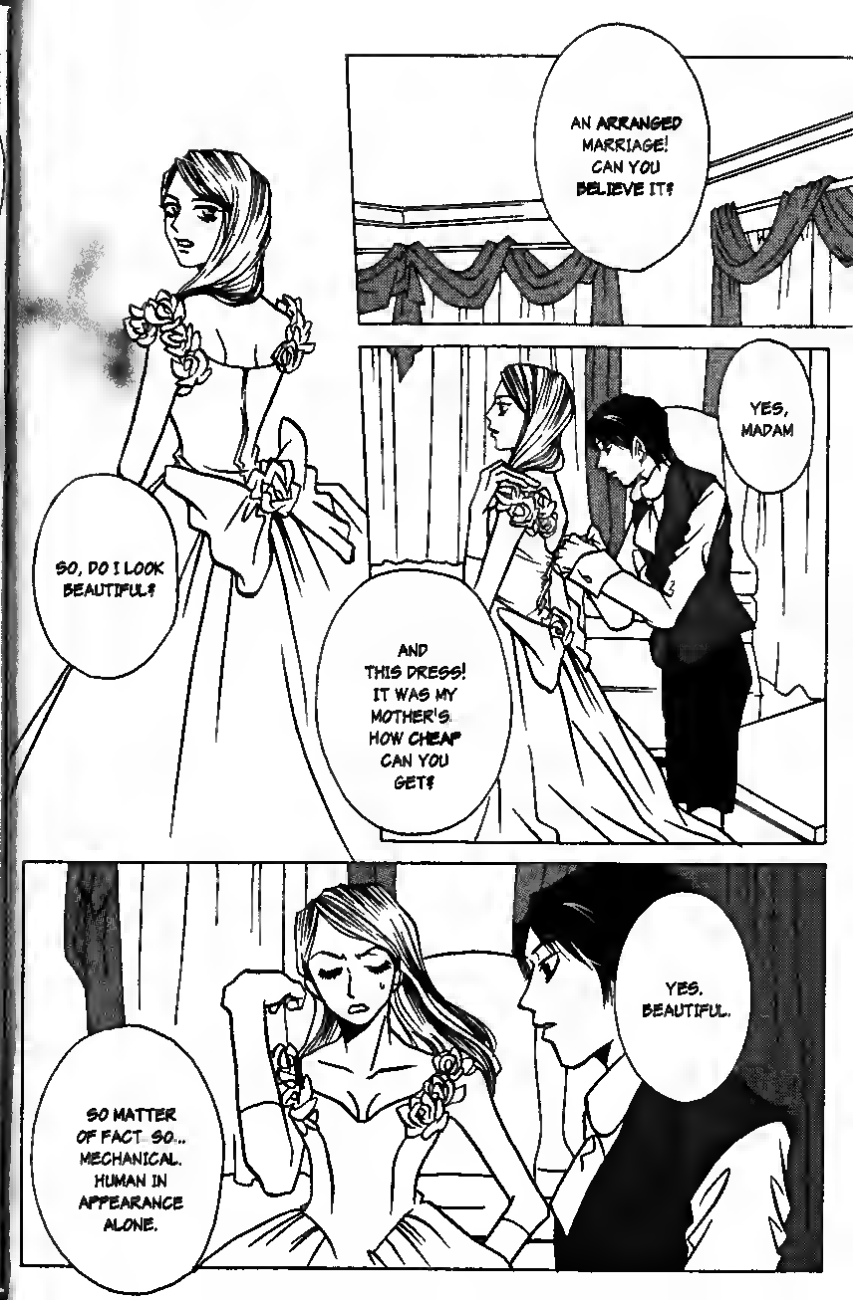

YOU HAVE EATEN A GREAT DEAL, MADAM.
YES. AND I INTEND TO EAT EVEN MORE! BRING ME DESSERT...
BLUURK!

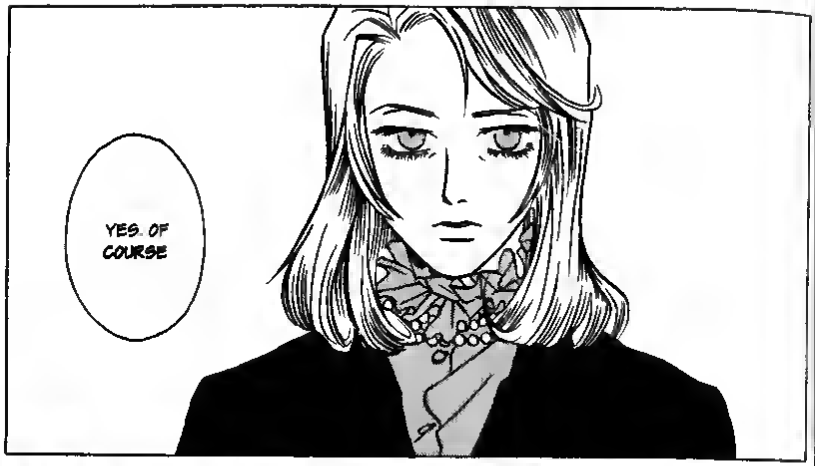

MY PLEASURE.
IT'S MY BIRTHDAY TODAY. I WONDER... WHAT SHALL I GIVE MYSELF?
THAT'S FATHER ALL OVER WORK FIRST, FAMILY.. THIRD OR FOURTH MY MOTHER...
...JUST WASTED AWAY AND DIED. HE BARELY NOTICED.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU SHE'D MAKE THE PERFECT WIFE!
ISN'T SHE LOVELY, TAKANORI!
I GET SOMEONE TO CARRY ON THE BUSINESS AFTER I'M GONE.
IT'S A GOOD DEAL FOR EVERYONE, KAYA
YES, PAPA.
...AND THEY GET FINANCIAL SECURITY. AND YOU.. WELL, YOU GET A HUSBAND.

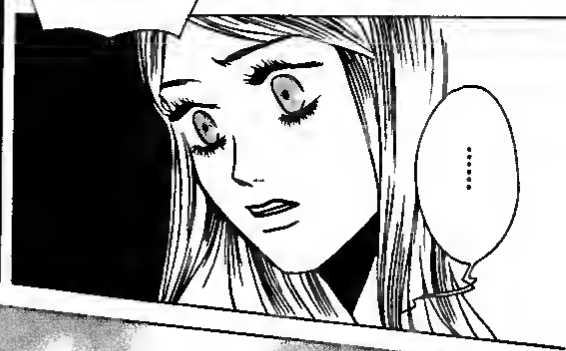
I WAS THE GIRL WITH EVERYTHING...AND NOTHING.
HELLO. I'M TAKANORI IMAZU. YOU MUST BE KAYA.


.....
DO YOU LOVE MR IMAZU?
IT DOESN'T MATTER HE'S NOT MARRYING ME... HE'S MARRYING THE MITSUISHI CORPORATION.
DO YOU...
...DO YOU THINK A DOLL AND A HUMAN COULD EVER GET MARRIED?
.....


AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
YES, MADAM
SO, DO I LOOK BEAUTIFUL?
AND THIS DRESS! IT WAS MY MOTHER'S. HOW CHEAP CAN YOU GET?
YES, BEAUTIFUL.
SO MATTER OF FACT SO... MECHANICAL. HUMAN IN APPEARANCE ALONE.

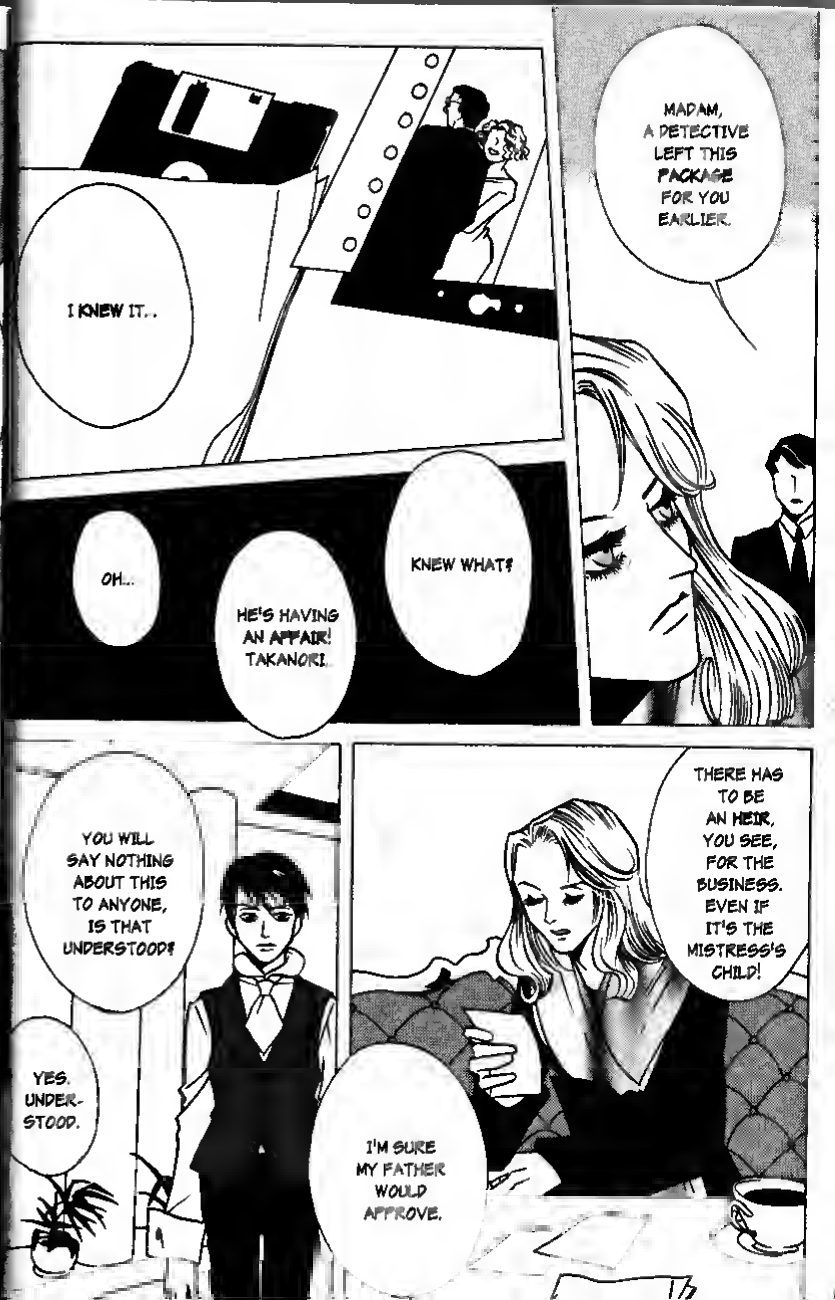


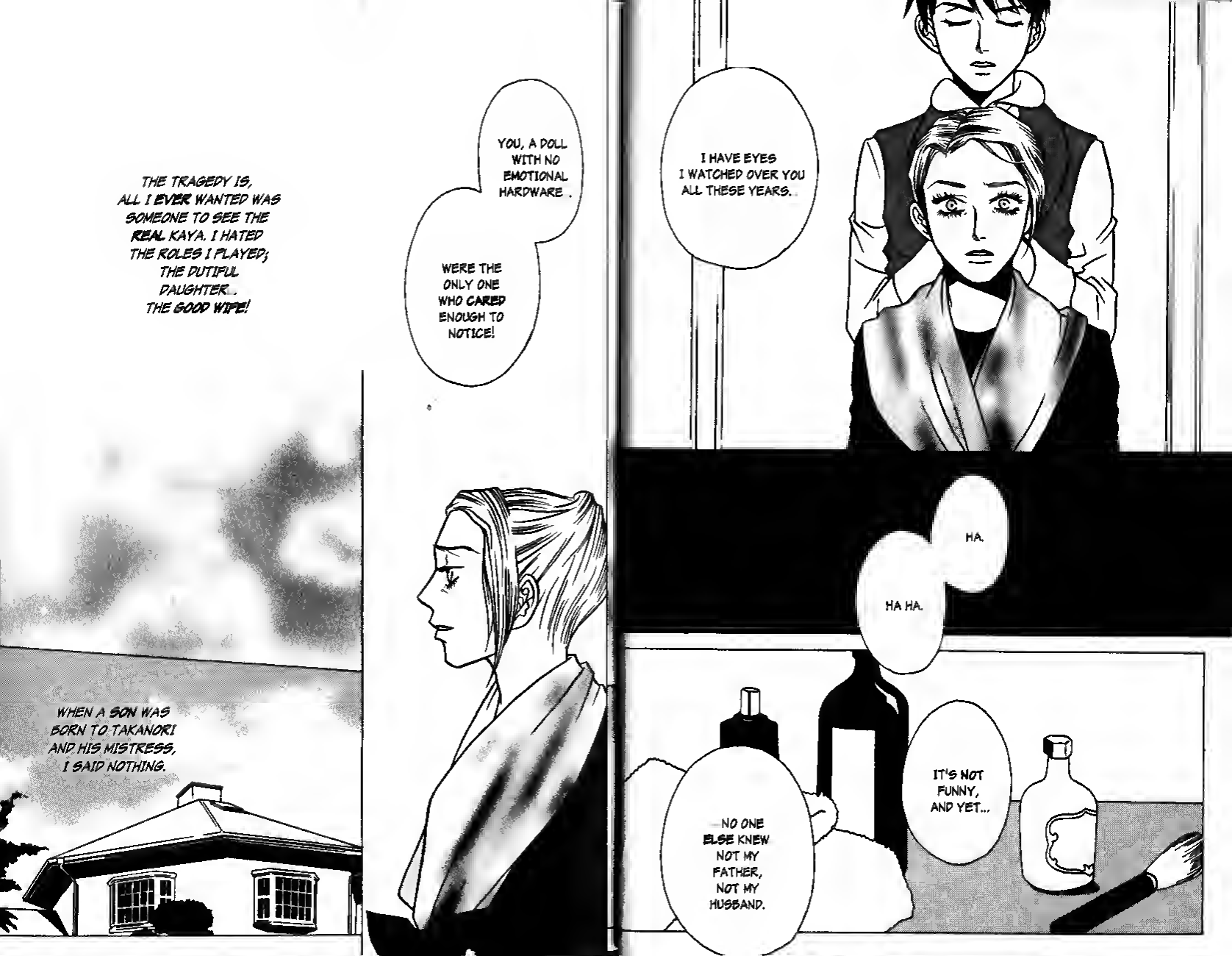
BUT I WAS THE DOLL, FULFILLING MY ASSIGNED ROLE AS THE DUTIFUL DAUGHTER. UNTIL, THAT IS



I'M NOT SAYING IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO HAVE CHILDREN. JUST DIFFICULT.
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF FERTILITY TREATMENTS WE CAN TRY.

ALL THAT FOOD...I BARELY KEPT ANY OF IT DOWN
I KNOW.
IN MY WAY, I'M AS MUCH A DOLL AS YOU A COLD THING, UNABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN
MAKING MYSELF SICK SO MANY TIMES WHEN I WAS YOUNG... I DAMAGED SOMETHING INSIDE
THE DOCTORS TELL ME IT'S BECAUSE OF THE BULIMIA.
YOU KNOW?
HOW DO YOU KNOW?

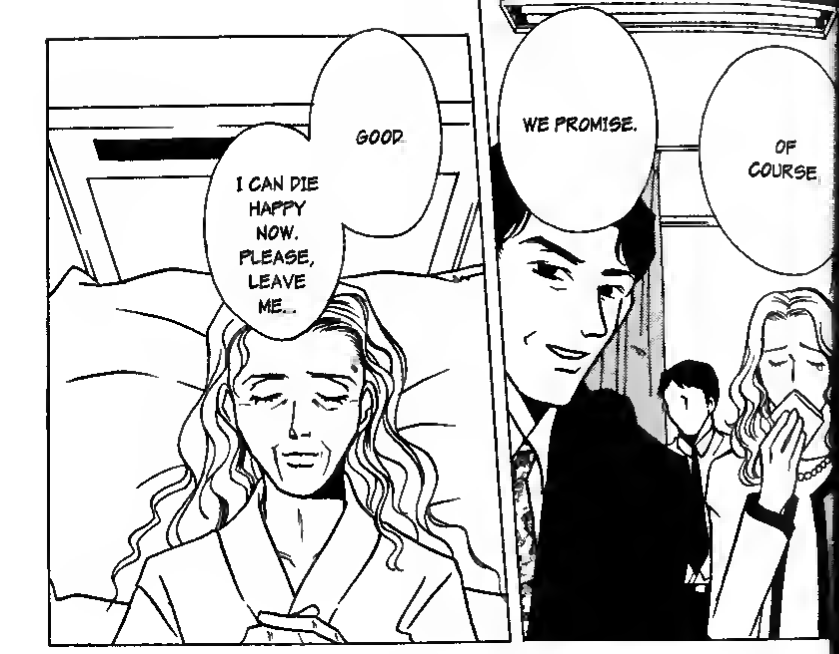

I KNEW IT..
MADAM, A DETECTIVE LEFT THIS PACKAGE FOR YOU EARLIER.
KNEW WHAT?
HE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR! TAKANORI.
OH...
YOU WILL SAY NOTHING ABOUT THIS TO ANYONE, IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
YES. UNDER-STOOD.
THERE HAS TO BE AN HEIR, YOU SEE, FOR THE BUSINESS. EVEN IF IT'S THE MISTRESS'S CHILD!
I'M SURE MY FATHER WOULD APPROVE.

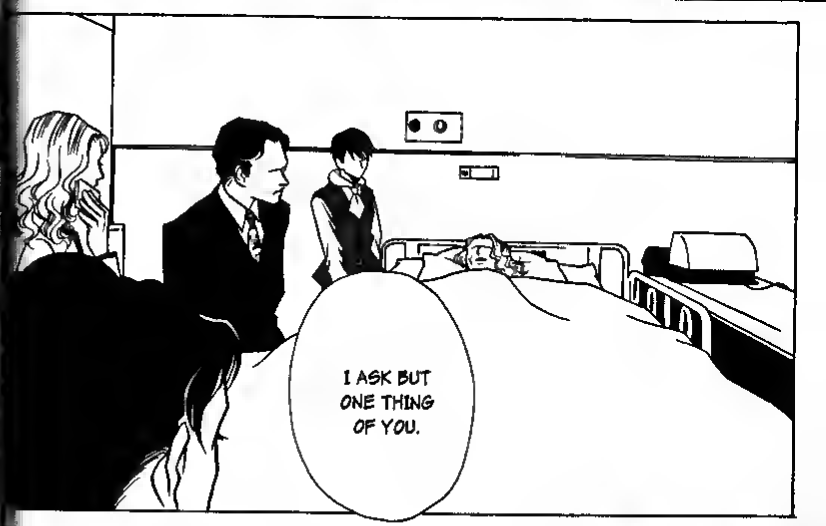

THE TRAGEDY IS, ALL I EVER WANTED WAS SOMEONE TO SEE THE REAL KAYA. I HATED THE ROLES I PLAYED; THE DUTIFUL DAUGHTER... THE GOOD WIFE!
YOU, A DOLL WITH NO EMOTIONAL HARDWARE.
WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO CARED ENOUGH TO NOTICE!
I HAVE EYES I WATCHED OVER YOU ALL THESE YEARS...
HA.
HA HA.
WHEN A SON WAS BORN TO TAKANORI AND HIS MISTRESS, I SAID NOTHING.
IT'S NOT FUNNY, AND YET...
—NO ONE ELSE KNEW NOT MY FATHER, NOT MY HUSBAND.

I WILL...
...ALWAYS BE HERE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
...FOREVER.
YOU..ARE THE ONLY ONE I HAVE EVER BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO. I HAVE TO KNOW..
WHAT WAS I WITHOUT HIM?
FREE... BUT FREE TO DO WHAT? TO BE WHAT?
I SEE. YES...I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
ONE LESS ROLE TO PLAY.
MY FATHER DEAD.

LET ME LIVE THE LIFE I CHOOSE!
GIVE ME MY FREEDOM.
...IF YOU WILL COME WITH ME WILLINGLY!
YES.
YOU DON'T?
IT WOULD BE... DIFFICULT FOR YOU, WHAT WITH FATHER LEAVING EVERYTHING TO ME.
RELAX, TAKANORI I WANT YOU TO FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE CHILD AS SON AND HEIR. AND NO, I DON'T WANT A DIVORCE
BUT I DO WANT A FAVOR IN RETURN.
KAYA-SAMA?

IS IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T SMILE..
...MORE HONESTLY THAN MOST PEOPLE ACTUALLY DO...?
IT'S STRANGE...
I'VE CUT SOME ROSES FROM THE GARDEN.
SHOULD I PUT THEM IN SOME WATER?
YES. BUT.. YOU NEEDN'T ASK.
I SEE. YES...I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
KAYA-SAMA!
!!
...!
IS IT--? IS IT HER?
YES. THAT WAS MY FATHER. THE OLD WITCH HAS HAD A HEART ATTACK! ALL THAT MONEY...
.. IS FINALLY GOING TO BE OURS!
WHY IS THAT?
..THESE LAST TEN YEARS, HERE IN THIS HOUSE WITH YOU, HAVE BEEN THE HAPPIEST AND MOST PEACEFUL OF MY LIFE

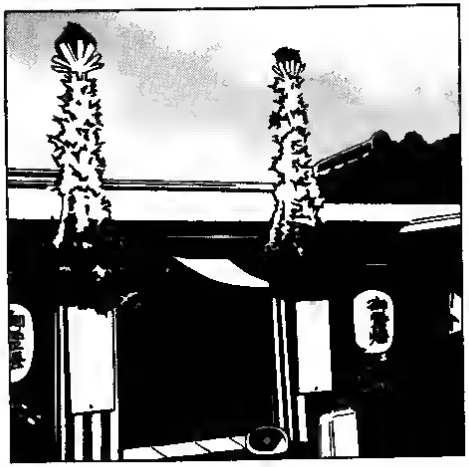

GOOD.
I CAN DIE HAPPY NOW. PLEASE, LEAVE ME...
WE PROMISE.
OF COURSE.


I ASK BUT ONE THING OF YOU.

...I WISH TO BE **ALONE** WITH MY BOY.
AH! SHE'S SENILE. FORGET HER!
SHH. SHE MIGHT HEAR.
DID YOU **HEAR** THAT? SHE CALLED IT HER **BOY**!

...TAKE GOOD **CARE** OF HIM ONCE I'M GONE.
THIS DOLL... THIS **BOY**...

THANK YOU, MY DARLING...



LOOK, NOBODY WANTS IT AROUND!

WELL?

AM I BEAUTIFUL NOW?

YES...

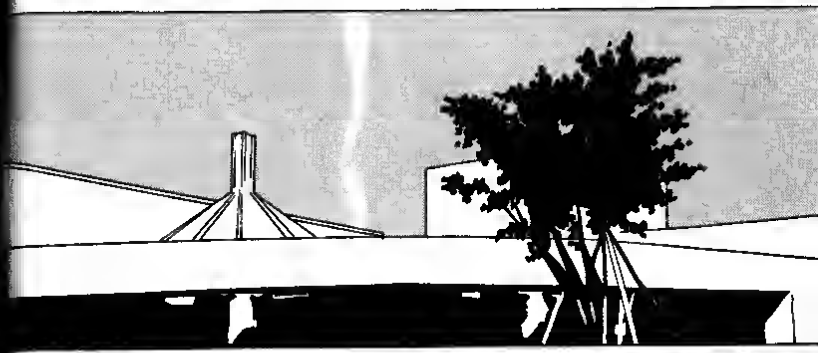
...MY MOST BEAUTIFUL KAYA-SAMA.

YES, SIR.
WILL IT BURN?
OH, SURE. THIS NEW STYLE OF CREMATION IS VERY THOROUGH. THERE WON'T EVEN BE ONE SCREW LEFT.
THIS OLD THING WASN'T BUILT TO SMILE. IT'S JUNK, PURE AND SIMPLE.
OOOH
DID YOU SEE THAT? IT SMILED.
NO!

I KNOW... IT CAN GO OUT IN A BLAZE OF GLORY... WITH HER.
THE WAY IT LOOKS AT YOU, LIKE IT KNOWS THINGS...
...IT'S CREEPY!
MM. AND IT'S AN OLD MODEL. WOULDN'T GET MUCH FOR IT.
YOU, DOLL... GET IN THE COFFIN!

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? RIGHT?!
...IT ALL GOES TO CHARITY. EVERY PENNY!

DO YOU...



WE BURNED IT... WITH HER. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
YOU IDIOT! THERE WAS A WILL...
HONORED SON! WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE DOLL?
FATHER?
KAYA LEFT A WILL! I'VE JUST COME FROM THE READING!
HE LEFT ALL HER ONEY AND PROP- RTY TO THE PER- SON WHO TAKES THE DOLL! IF NO ONE DOES.

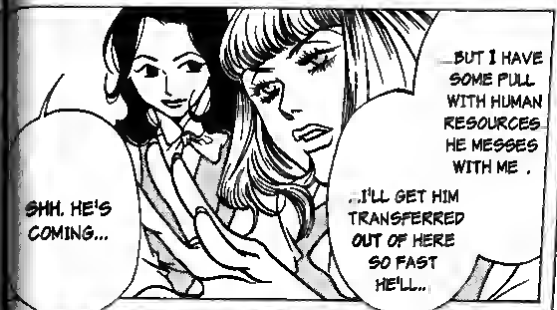
LIST 2

...DO YOU THINK A DOLL AND A HUMAN COULD EVER GET MARRIED?

END

...MAKING ANIMAL NOISES!

I HOPED PERHAPS YOU'D RECONSIDERED THE INVITATION TO DINNER TONIGHT.
THE GIRL ...AND HER FAMILY... ARE VERY KEEN TO MEET YOU.
REALLY. THE SAME, I'M AFRAID...



NOT MY TYPE AT ALL. I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE ALTOGETHER MORE...

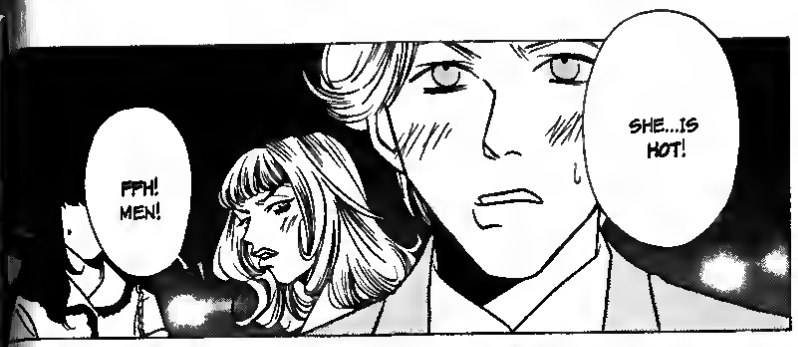
HER NAME'S SUGAR.
BUT HEY, SHE CAN BE WHOEVER, OR WHATEVER YOU...
MARIA. I WANT... MARIA.
NO PROBLEM
SHE COMES WITH A FULL WARRANTY, NATURALLY. ANY PROBLEMS...
JUST INSERT DISK 'A'.
M-A-R-I-A. YOU GOT IT. TELL ME...
.. HOW CAN YOU AFFORD A DOLL THIS SOPHISTICATED? MOST GUYS YOUR AGE.. AS SOON AS IT'S EARNED, IT'S SPENT!
SHE SEEMS SO... DELICATE
HN. DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT! THAT'S A TI-TANIUM ALLOY, TOUGHEST ON THE MARKET.
OKAY. THAT'S ALL DONE. MARIA...
...MEET YOUR MASTER!

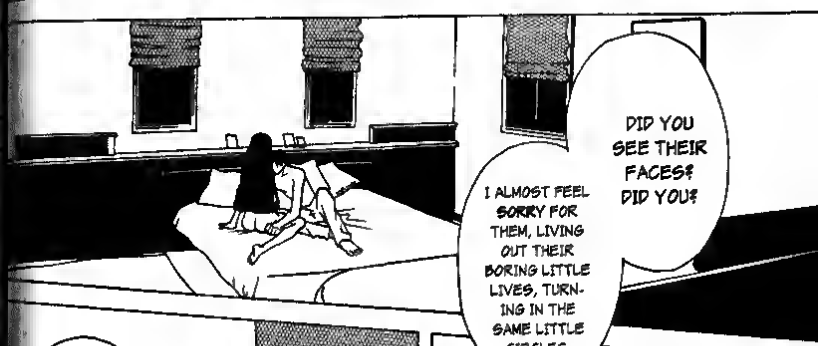
...PERFECT!
MORE LIKE...
..MARIA! SOON, MY DARLING, SOON!
THAT JERK, WATANABE! HE ACTUALLY LEFT THE OFFICE ON TIME TODAY!
WOW! THAT'S A FIRST! MUST BE A GIRL.
NO! HAT SELF-ESPECTING MAN WOULD VEN LOOK AT HIM!

AT LAST! A WOMAN WORTHY OF ME.
NO! NO WAY!
SO, C'MON, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HOW ABOUT THAT NEW RESTAURANT ...OISHII?
HEY, THERE'S WATANABE!
THINK HE'S FEELING SOCIABLE?
DON'T, FUJII! IF YOU INVITE HIM, I'M GOING HOME!
RELAX, I'M JUST KIDDING. AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE NEVER GOES ANYWHERE WITH ANYONE!
OH? THEN WHO'S THAT?
HOW MAY I SERVE YOU?
M-M... MARI...
WELL? GO ON!
IGHT, WELL... F THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU EED, PLEASE CONTACT UR SUPPORT CENTER.

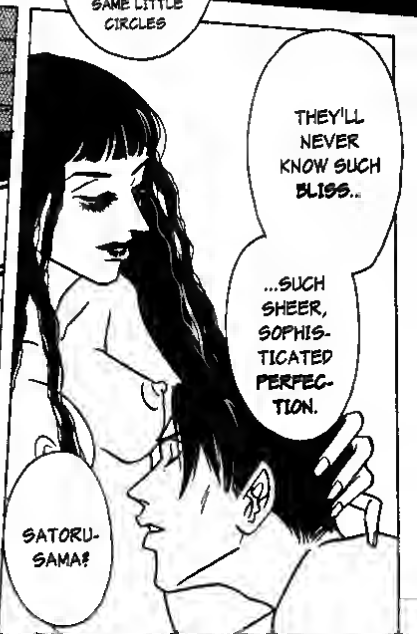
SHE...
...BETRAYED ME! ALL WOMEN...
...ARE WHORES!
GIVE ME THAT! NEVER MENTION THAT WOMAN... NEVER!

BUT NOT YOU, MARIA...NOT YOU! YOU'RE A FLAWLESS VISION. I NEED TO KNOW...
...THAT YOU LOVE ONLY ME!

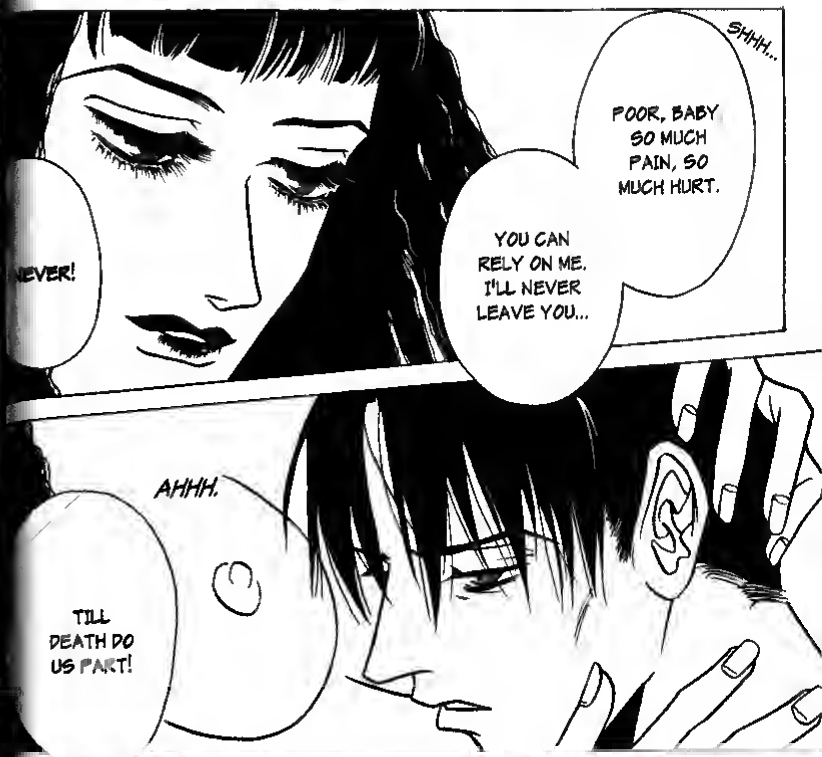

SHE...IS HOT!
FFH! MEN!


DID YOU SEE THEIR FACES? DID YOU?
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THEM, LIVING OUT THEIR BORING LITTLE LIVES, TURNING IN THE SAME LITTLE CIRCLES

THIS PICTURE...
YOUR OTHER?
!

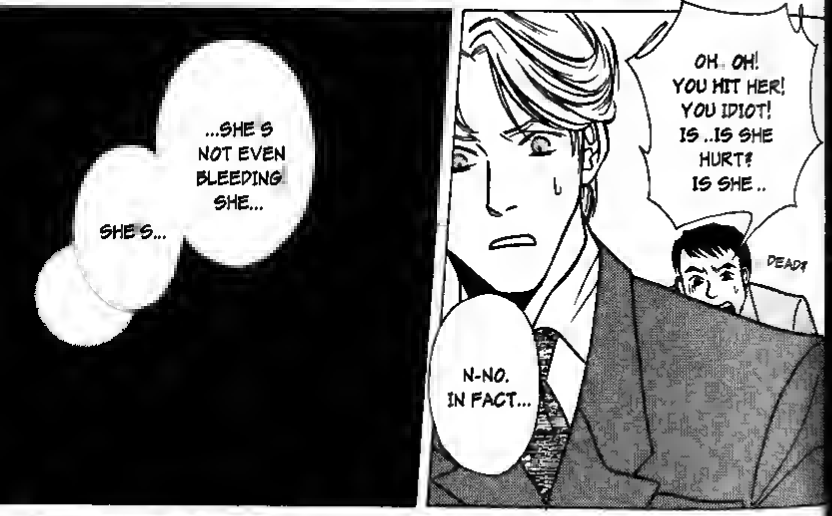

THEY'LL NEVER KNOW SUCH BLISS..
...SUCH SHEER, SOPHISTICATED PERFECTION.
SATORU-SAMA?

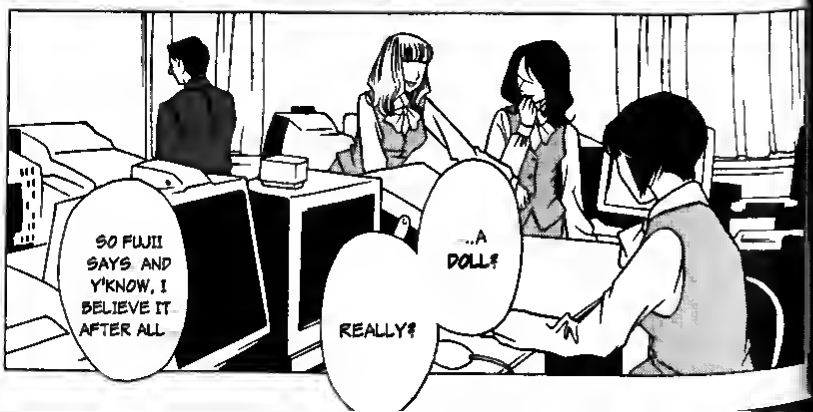
FUJII-KUN! EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
RUBBISH! I WON'T HAVE YOU BAD-MOUTHING MY STAR EMPLOYEE. IT'S YOUR MISTAKE.
BUT-- BUT...
BUT, SIR. WANATABE-KUN PROCESSED THOSE ORDERS. I JUST FILLED OUT THE LABELS!
THAT'S THE THIRD DELIVERY IN AS MANY DAYS THAT'S GONE ASTRAY! YOUR MIND CLEARLY ISN'T ON THE JOB!
...AND YOU'LL BE REPRIMANDED FOR IT!

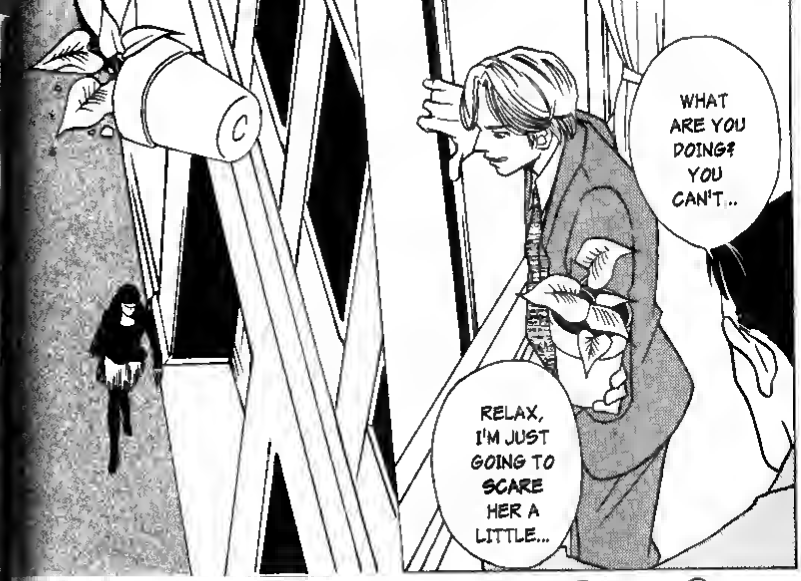

SHHH..
POOR, BABY SO MUCH PAIN, SO MUCH HURT.
YOU CAN RELY ON ME. I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU...
NEVER!
AHHH.
TILL DEATH DO US PART!

WATANABE, YOU... BASTARD!
HEY, HEY! FUJII, LOOK... IT'S THAT SEXY GIRLFRIEND OF WANATABE'S.
YEAH! GOOD... I'M GOING TO TEACH HER... AND HIM...A LESSON!

MARIA...ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!


...SHE'S NOT EVEN BLEEDING SHE...
SHE'S...
OH. OH! YOU HIT HER! YOU IDIOT! IS..IS SHE HURT? IS SHE..
DEAD?
N-NO. IN FACT...


SO FUJII SAYS AND Y'KNOW, I BELIEVE IT AFTER ALL
REALLY?
..A DOLL?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CAN'T..
RELAX, I'M JUST GOING TO SCARE HER A LITTLE...

WHATEVER IT COSTS...
I'LL PAY IT! DON'T YOU SEE?
SHE HAS TO BE PERFECT!
LOOK. IF IT EVER COMES OUT WHAT I DID... I'LL DENY IT UNDERSTAND?
THIS TYPE OF WORK, WELL... IT'S TOTALLY ILLEGAL. THE MODIFICATIONS COULD EVEN BE... DANGEROUS.
SO... NO PAPER-WORK, NO WARRANTY. NO GUARAN-TEES AT ALL!
EVERY-THING.
I UNDERSTAND. WHAT EXACTLY HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?

LOOK AT HIM! I'M SURPRISED HE CAN EVEN SHOW HIS FACE!
YEAH. WHAT A LOSER!
ONCE WORD GETS AROUND THAT THE SENIOR BUYER IS DATING A HIGH-TECH BLOW-UP DOLL...
...HOW ELSE COULD HE GET A WOMAN LIKE HER?
...HE'LL BE LUCKY TO GET A CLEANING POST HERE!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
I'LL SHOW YOU! I'LL SHOW ALL OF YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M AS HUMAN AS YOU!
TELL ME SOME-THING, DOLL. IF YOU'RE GOOD...
..DOES HE FEED YOU A BISCUIT?
OF COURSE, IT MEANS SHE'S NOT AS STRONG, OR AS DURABLE. NO MORE HEAVY-LIFTING OR ROUGH SEX...
BIO-MECHANICAL TRANSPLANTS, REAL SKIN AND HAIR GRAFTS, A WHOLE NEW NERVOUS SYSTEM AND AN AI UPGRADE
PLUS ONE OR TWO LITTLE REFINEMENTS, HERE AND THERE. OPTIONAL HUMAN EXTRAS, IF YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN.
YEAH...I DIDN'T THINK DOLLS COULD LIE
WELL!
NOW I'VE HEARD EVERY-THING!
WELL THEN, YOU'RE SET.
BE GENTLE WITH HER!
LIKE A FAITHFUL PET!
HA. WAITING FOR HER MASTER..
HEY! IT'S WATANABE'S DOLL!
MAYBE IT'S DEFECTIVE. WHAT DO YOU RECKON, ASAMI?
STOP, PLEASE!
THINK WE SHOULD PERFORM A LITTLE ON-THE-SPOT MAINTE-NANCE?

OPTIONAL EXTRAS...HE WASN'T KIDDING!
PLEASE, WATANABE. TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE FAR AWAY.
OF COURSE. ANYTHING FOR YOU, MARIA. WAIT HERE. I'LL GET THE CAR..
...IS THIS? REAL BLOOD..
...OR RED OIL?!
AIEE!
MARIA!
BLOOD! BUT... THAT MEANS SHE'S...
GO! YOU JUST ATTACKED A HUMAN BEING! WE COULD BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
AHHHH THAT'S SO MUCH BETTER. THANK YOU. IT'S BEEN A LOVELY DRIVE.
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU? MY LOVE. WHAT...

.....
KK-
HH-M-
MARIA?
GO...GET HELP. I... CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS! YOU CAN...

SATORU! THE ROAD!
WHAT? NO...
I'M SORRY YOU GOT HURT, MARIA BUT AT LEAST NOW THEY'LL LEAVE US ALONE
YES. ALONE...
...FOREVER!
NOOOOOO!

LIST 3

...YOU REMINDED ME OF MY MOTHER!

END

O-KAAY. JUST LET ME FINISH UP HERE AND I'LL...
YASUTAKA! THESE EMPTY BOXES NEED THROWING OUT.
OH!
ERM... I'D LIKE SOME AVOCADOS AND TOMATOES, PLEASE.
YES, MA'AM, FRESH TODAY. ASPARAGUS BROCCOLI, BEANS...
...IT'S AS IF THEY WERE PICKED THIS MORNING!

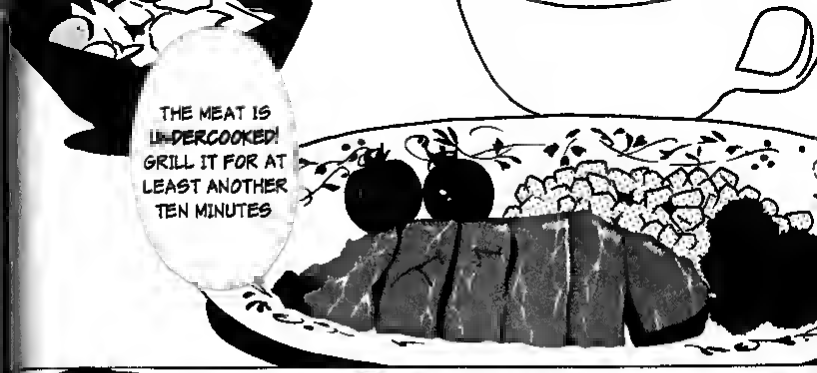
NEVER...TALK TO STRANGE MEN
NEVER...EAT BLOODY MEAT
NEVER...STAY OUT LATE
NEVER...FORGET YOUR PRAYERS
NEVER...DISOBEY ME
THAT'S ALL. JUST FIVE SIMPLE RULES.
RULES ANY GOOD GIRL SHOULD BE ABLE TO FOLLOW. AND YOU ARE A GOOD GIRL...
...AREN'T YOU, AI?
YES...M... YES, MA'AM.

THAT LADY WITH THE PARASOL, THE ONE WHO WAS WITH HER.. THAT'S HER MISTRESS!
NO WAY!
I SEE HER HERE AND THERE, AT THE STORE OR THE CHURCH..
THEY MOVED INTO THE AREA A MONTH OR SO AGO, JUST DOWN THE STREET FROM ME
SHE CERTAINLY WAS EASY ON THE EYE, THOUGH, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT!
YOU CAN STOP BLUSHING NOW, YASUTAKA, SHE'S GONE.
BUT... SHE'S A DOLL! YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
AH. HHHN...
WOW!
IT'S..
AI!
OI, YASUTAKA .. WHAT HAVE I TOLD YOU ABOUT STARING AT THE CUSTOMERS?
MIND YOU, YOU ARE A PRETTY THING. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
.....
PEACH
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG? COME HERE THIS INSTANT!
PEACH
...BUT WE'VE BARELY SPOKEN!
I GUESS .. SHE'S JUST NOT THE SOCIABLE TYPE!
TRUTH BE TOLD, I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR HER!

NOT HERE!
SOMEONE MIGHT SEE!
MM-MMM.
..THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN...
...THE POWER AND GLORY, FOREVER AND EVER...
AMEN.
OOH!
DISGUSTIN
COME AWAY, AI.
HA HA. SHOZU!
DON'T!

"DON'T RESIST."

"YOU'LL TAKE IT..."



ENOUGH!
...IT'S HOW LONG THE BOOK SAID TO COOK IT FOR I WAS JUST TRYING TO PLEASE YOU..
I WON'T HAVE YOU SPEAKING BACK TO ME LIKE THIS! I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES...

H...
HHHU...
...HUHH!
SOME-
ONE...
LORD...
...FORGIVE...
...ALL MY
TRESPASSES!
NO...
PLEASE!
DON'T!
OH GOD...
..HELP ME!

Delika CocoPiko

HEY! IT'S HER!

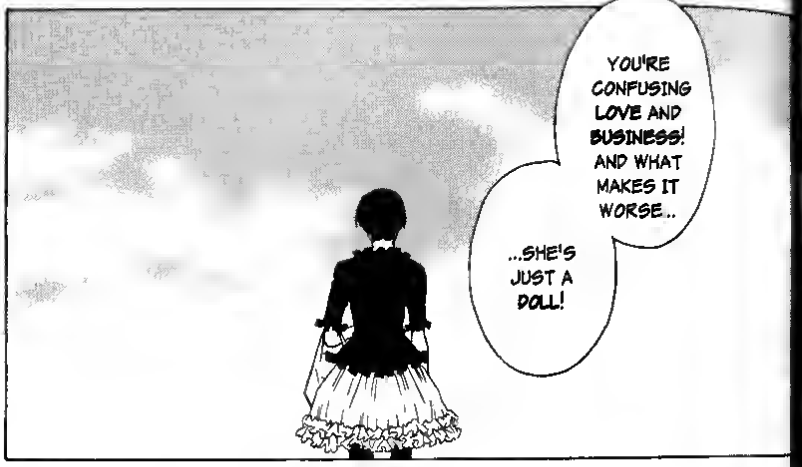
HHHH...

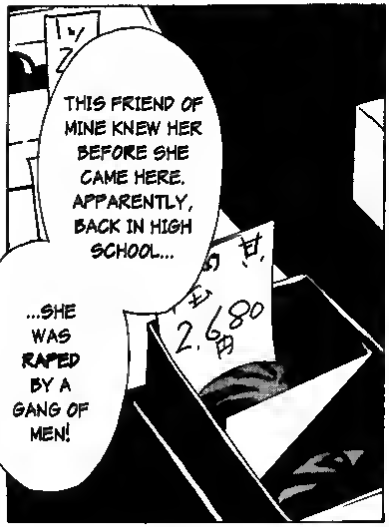
LOOK, YOU'RE MY SISTER, AND I LOVE YOU, BUT PLEASE...
WE'RE PERFECTLY HAPPY. PERFECTLY... SAFE. THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO FUSS LIKE THIS

I'M NOT HAVING THIS DISCUSSION AGAIN, SUKI!
AI STAYS HERE, WITH ME!

LEAVE US ALONE!

OW!
IDIOT!


YOU'RE CONFUSING LOVE AND BUSINESS! AND WHAT MAKES IT WORSE..
...SHE'S JUST A DOLL!


THIS FRIEND OF MINE KNEW HER BEFORE SHE CAME HERE. APPARENTLY, BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL...
...SHE WAS RAPED BY A GANG OF MEN!

I DON'T LIKE TO SPREAD GOSSIP, BUT... I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THAT DOLL'S MISTRESS
SOME... UNPLEASANTNESS WHERE SHE USED TO LIVE.

HELLO. I'LL TAKE THIS, PLEASE.
CERTAINLY! AND, HEY...

COME BACK SOON! PLENTY MORE FREE STUFF HERE!

...FOR FREE!
...I'LL THROW IN SOME TANGERINES... AND KIWI FRUIT...

ER.. RIGHT. THANK YOU.

IT WAS A BIG SCANDAL, ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE BECAME PREGNANT. HER FAMILY...ALL STRICT CATHOLICS ..TRIED TO HUSH IT UP
MONEY EXCHANGED HANDS FOR AN ABORTION... AND, WELL, THEN THE FAMILY DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT,
SO THE DOLL IS MAYBE A SUBSTITUTE FOR THAT CHILD THAT NEVER WAS MAKES SENSE
MM YES BUT IN THE END A DOLL IS JUST A DOLL IT'S NEVER GOING REPLACE A REAL HUMAN BEING!
UH?

...YOU SEEM SO SAD. AND I THOUGHT, MAYBE, YOU NEEDED A GOOD-LUCK CHARM...OR SOMETHING.
.....
THANK YOU.
ER.. ME?
HEY! HOLD UP!
PRETTY GIRL!
...I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT!
YES, YOU! I-I MADE SOME-THING FOR YOU. HERE...
I'M NOT SURE I CAN..
IT'S JUST... WELL, IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
AND...IT REALLY DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING, BUT...

WE GIVE THANKS, OH LORD, FOR THIS BOUNTIFUL MEAL...
.. AND FOR YOUR BLESSING ON THIS HOUSE.
AMEN.
AI?
OH! AMEN.
A GOOD-LUCK CHARM. YES...
AI! WHERE'S MY LUNCH? I'M HUNGRY!
...PERHAPS I DO NEED ONE OF THOSE!
AI! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
ER...

I DIDN'T... DO...
...ANYTHING WRONG!
DON'T TALK BACK!
YOU'RE A DOLL! A DOLL!
YOU DO AS I SAY!
SOB
SOB
SOB

...WELL, IT...
THE TRUTH, AI!

...NEVER TALK TO MEN! NEVER!
YOU BROKE THE RULES, AI!

A BOY...THE ONE WHO WORKS AT THE VEGETABLE STALL IN THE MARKET...
...HE GAVE IT TO ME. IT WAS A PRESENT.

A... PRESENT?! AND WE KNOW WHERE PRESENTS LEAD, DON'T WE?! I TOLD YOU... NEVER...

...SHE'S NOT COMING TO LIVE WITH YOU!
OH!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT LIES YOU SPREAD.
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM AT ONCE!
THAT WAS AUNT SUKI, WASN'T IT?
NOW GO TO YOUR ROOM. YOU MADE ME ANGRY, AI...
HELLO?
OH...SUKI. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SCHOOL?
RING RING
RING RING
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK THIS WILL ACHIEVE, SUKI!
SHE'S A DOLL! DOLLS DON'T GO TO SCHOOL!

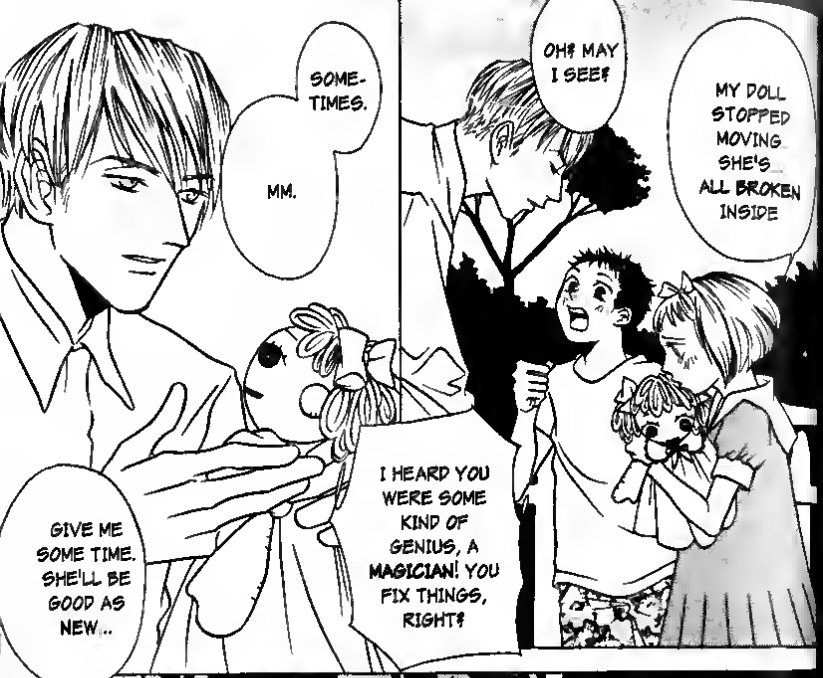
MOTHER...
...LOOK AT ME!
NEVER...STAY OUT LATE.
NEVER...TALK TO MEN.
IT'S NOT YOU WHO SHOULD BE PUNISHED...
OH...
MY SWEET CHILD...

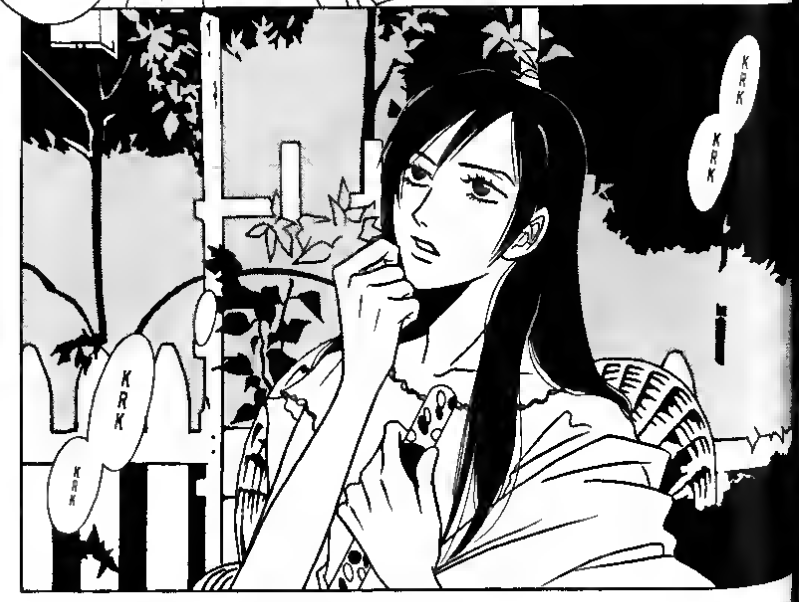
I'D LIKE THAT. I'D LIKE TO GO TO SCHOOL. I'D LIKE TO LIVE WITH AUNT SUKI. I...
AI. I'M WARNING YOU...
...DON'T WANT TO BE A DOLL ANYMORE!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
YOU...
I'M BLEEDING. LOOK...
BLOOD. REAL BLOOD.
I'M... HUMAN!

HEY!
HOW ARE YOU, LITTLE MISS?
aCoCoPiko

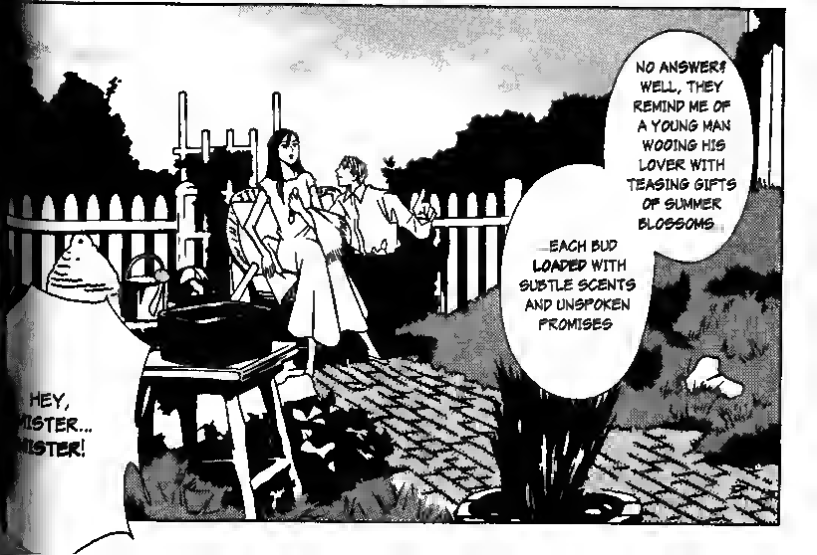
...IT'S ME!
I BROKE THE RULES, I... DELIVERED YOU IN TEARS AND SHAME. I...
I FORGIVE YOU, MOTHER. BUT I CAN'T PRETEND TO BE WHAT I'M NOT. I...
...HAVE TO GO NOW.

LIST 4


SOME-
TIMES.
MM.
GIVE ME SOME TIME. SHE'LL BE GOOD AS NEW...
OH? MAY I SEE?
MY DOLL STOPPED MOVING SHE'S ALL BROKEN INSIDE
I HEARD YOU WERE SOME KIND OF GENIUS, A MAGICIAN! YOU FIX THINGS, RIGHT?


KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK

SUN-
FLOWER.
MORNING GLORY.
TELL ME, KAORU... WHAT DO THEY REMIND YOU OF?
KRK


NO ANSWER? WELL, THEY REMIND ME OF A YOUNG MAN WOOING HIS LOVER WITH TEASING GIFTS OF SUMMER BLOSSOMS
...EACH BUD LOADED WITH SUBTLE SCENTS AND UNSPOKEN PROMISES
HEY, MISTER... MISTER!

KAORU!
MOTOHIKO! HI!
YOU BACK ON THE CHOCOLATE AGAIN?
SURE. DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S THE BEST WAY TO BEAT FATIGUE?
WANT SOME?
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!

IT WAS JUST A FEW ISOLATED INCIDENTS AT FIRST, NOTHING MAJOR EVEN I DIDN'T SEE WHAT WAS COMING...
KIRISHIMA-SAN...
YOU MUST HAVE JUST FORGOTTEN TO SUM UP. IT'S EASILY DONE.
CAN'T BE UNDEMANDING BEING A NEWLYWED DOCTOR BUSY DAYS...BUSIER NIGHTS!
HEY!
...I'M MISSING A FINAL SUMMATION OF JULY'S BATCH TESTING.
ARE YOU? THAT'S ODD I CERTAINLY COLLATED THE RESPONSE DATA. I COULD HAVE SWORN I DREW CONCLUSIONS

...I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS. WE'RE PLAYING GOD HERE, AREN'T WE?
CREATING SOMETHING THAT'S NO LONGER QUITE A MACHINE, SOMETHING MORE HUMAN THAN HUMAN.
IT'S QUITE A STEP, AND I'M WORRIED THAT IN TAKING IT... WE'RE OPENING A WHOLE CAN OF WORMS.
A DOLL SO CLOSE TO HUMAN IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE. QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES. QUITE AN ACHIEVE-MENT. BUT...
...A COMPLETE SCATTERBRAIN!
MY KAORU... SMART, FUNNY AND, SOMETIMES...
?
WHAT D YOU CALL ME?
SKSHH!
ER... THANKS.
THE STEROL-2 PROTOTYPE IS READY. IT'LL BE THE MOST ADVANCED DOLL ON THE MARKET.
I LIKE TO THINK OF IT AS OUR BABY, KAORU YOURS AND MINE.
IMAGINE..
.. THE WORLD'S FINEST MINDS, PRESERVED EVEN AFTER DEATH IN A PERFECT BODY. YES, WE'RE PLAYING GOD ..
...BUT ONLY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND!
LISTEN!

SOON, THOUGH, OTHERS STARTED TO SEE THE SIGNS...
KIRISHIMA-SAN...
I'M MISSING A FINAL SUMMA-TION OF OCTOBER'S BATCH TESTING.
NO! SURELY YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
TELL ME SOMETHING. HAVE YOU NOTICED DR. KAORU ACTING STRANGELY LATELY?
NO, I DON'T THINK SO. SHE'S BEEN A LITTLE FORGETFUL, I GUESS. ONE OR TWO MISTAKES HERE OR THERE...

NEVER CREATE IN THE IMAGE OF A LIVING PERSON
NEVER BLUR THE LINE BETWEEN HUMAN AND DOLL
WE'RE DANGEROUSLY CLOSE... TO A HUGE MORAL CROSSROADS! REMEMBER OUR OWN CREDO:
IT'S JUST... IN SCIENCE, AS IN LIFE, THERE ARE LINES YOU SHOULDN'T CROSS.
AND I...
...LOVE YOU, KAORU.
OKAY, OKAY! AND I KNOW... I'M ONLY THE RESEARCH ASSISTANT. YOU'RE THE PROJECT LEADER.
BUT SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE SO CONSERVATIVE IN YOUR THINKING!
AND YOU ARE OBSTINATE, HIGH-HANDED AND OBSESSIVE BUT. .I STILL LOVE YOU

WHAT SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE 20TH?
KAORU...IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!
I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER DOING IT! AT LEAST...
...I THINK I DO!
WHY?
IT'S THE WEEKEND OF THE 20TH. WE SHOULD BE CELEBRATING!
LOOK, WHY DON'T WE TAKE SOME TIME OFF? GO UP TO THE HOUSE IN KYOTO.
IT'S GETTING WORSE, MOTOHIKO! NOGUCHI-KUN AT THE TOKYO LAB COMMENTED THAT I WAS TOO YOUNG TO BE SENILE!
YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT NOTHING.
IT'S JUST OVERWORK. YOU'RE TIRED.

THE PROBLEM IS, HER BRAIN SCANS ARE NOT SHOWING ANY ABNORMALITY.
IT MAY NOT EVEN BE A CLINICAL ILLNESS, AS SUCH. IT MIGHT BE STRESS-RELATED OR EVEN...
...THE LONG-TERM PROGNOSIS IS NOT GOOD.
OH.
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING! YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE UP!
I WON'T. I'LL KEEP LOOKING. BUT I HAVE TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, MOTOHIKO...

I'M AFRAID IT'S BAD NEWS.
I'M NOT EVEN ILL!
LOOK AT ME...A PATIENT IN MY OWN RESEARCH CLINIC! I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FRAUD!
JUST RELAX AND GET SOME REST I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
KAORU IS SUFFERING FROM A DEGENERATIVE MENTAL CONDITION, SIMILAR TO ALZHEIMER'S
BUT IT'S SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE, AND FRANKLY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S TREATABLE.
ARE YOU TELLING ME THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE FOR HER? HERE, IN JAPAN'S FOREMOST NEURAL HOSPITAL?

...KAORU COULDN'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE VERY PROJECT THAT WAS ONCE HER PRIDE AND JOY.
...AND WHEN I SAW HER AT THE HOSPITAL YESTERDAY, SHE'D DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHO I WAS.
IT'S A TERRIBLE SHAME. SUCH A WASTE OF A BRILLIANT MIND!
POOR MOTOHIKO. HE LOOKS WORN OUT.
HE MUST BE WORRIED. THERE'S TALK OF SHUTTING DOWN THE PROJECT!

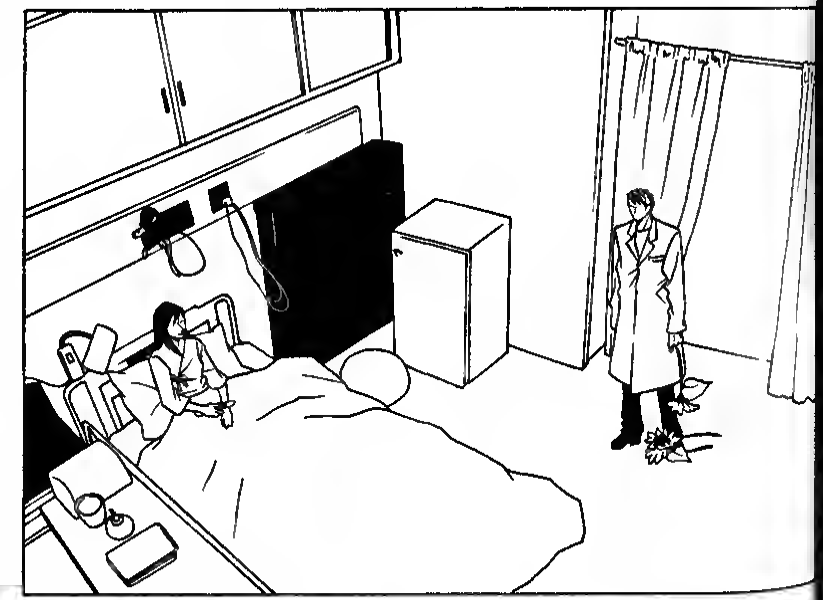
WHAT'S GOING ON, MOTOHIKO?
WHAT ARE ALL THESE TESTS FOR?
IT'S JUST A ROUTINE CHECK-UP, KAORU. ALL EMPLOYEES HAVE TO HAVE IT.
SOON, THOUGH, EVEN THESE LIGHT-HEARTED EVASIONS WERE NO LONGER NECESSARY. WITHIN ONE MONTH..
HA HA HA!
OH MOTOHIKO, YOU DO MAKE ME LAUGH. AND YET, IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER!

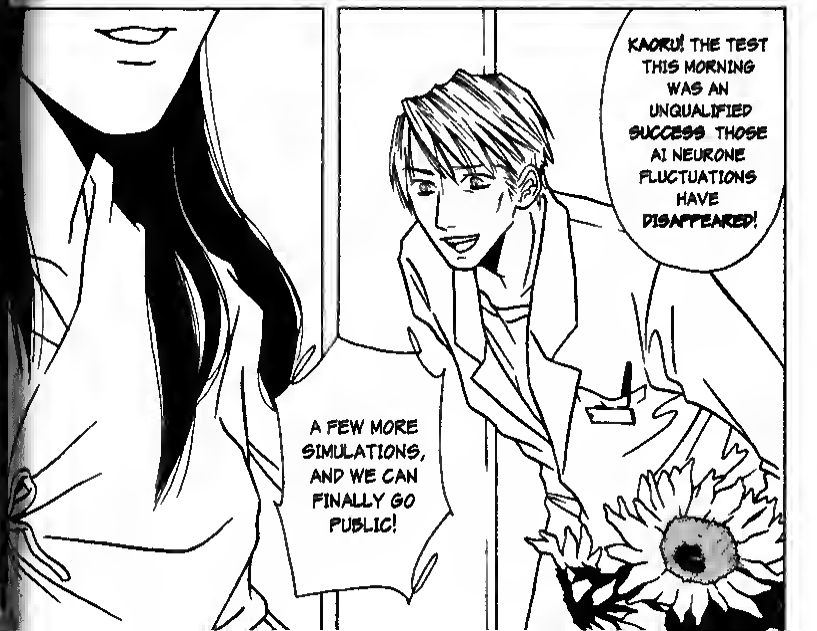
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
OUR CHILD...

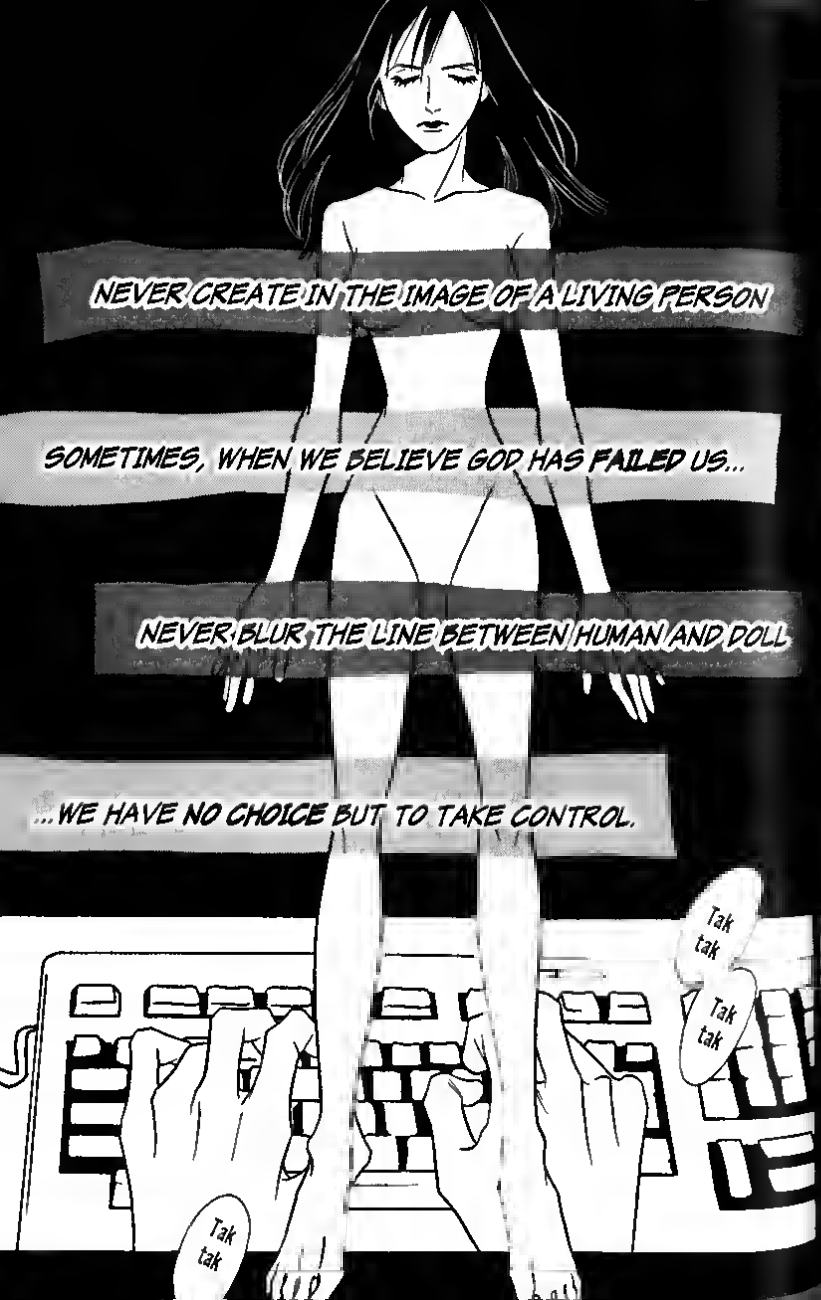
WE CARRY ON. WE'VE COME TOO FAR TO STOP NOW!
BUT WITH KAORU GONE...
STOP TALKING ABOUT HER AS IF SHE'S DEAD!
THIS DOLL WAS HER DREAM, HER LIFE'S WORK.
I STILL INTEND TO MAKE IT A REALITY!

EXCUSE ME, BUT...WHO ARE YOU?

...WOULD SOON BE BORN!




KAORU! THE TEST THIS MORNING WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS THOSE AI NEURONE FLUCTUATIONS HAVE DISAPPEARED!
A FEW MORE SIMULATIONS, AND WE CAN FINALLY GO PUBLIC!

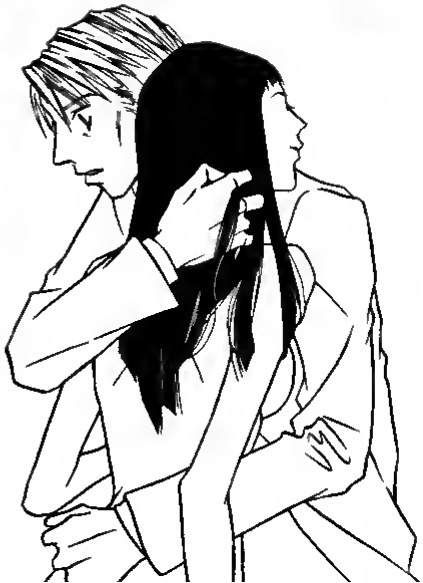

NEVER CREATE IN THE IMAGE OF A LIVING PERSON
SOMETIMES, WHEN WE BELIEVE GOD HAS FAILED US...
NEVER BLUR THE LINE BETWEEN HUMAN AND DOLL
...WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE CONTROL.
Tak tak
Tak tak
Tak tak

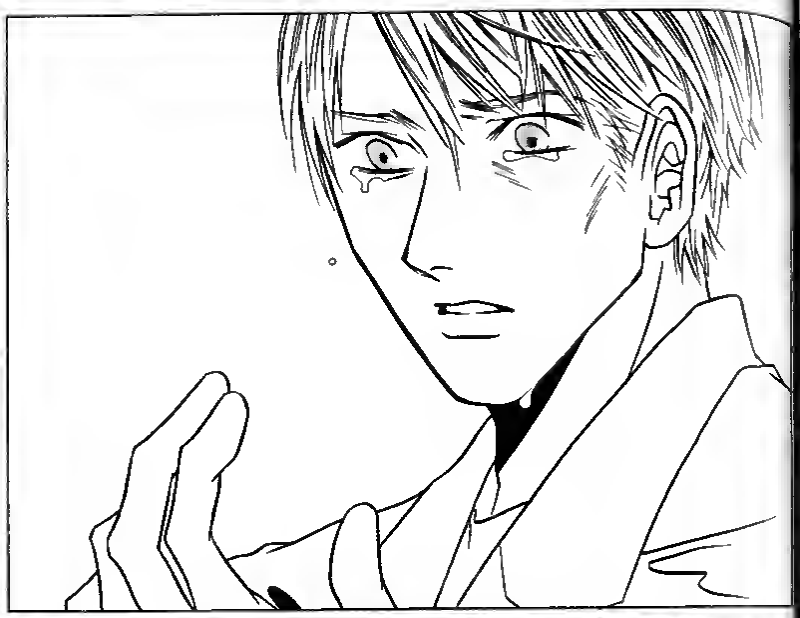
KAORU...THIS IS FOR YOU!
HEY! HOW'S IT... UFF!
MOTOHIKO? WHAT--?

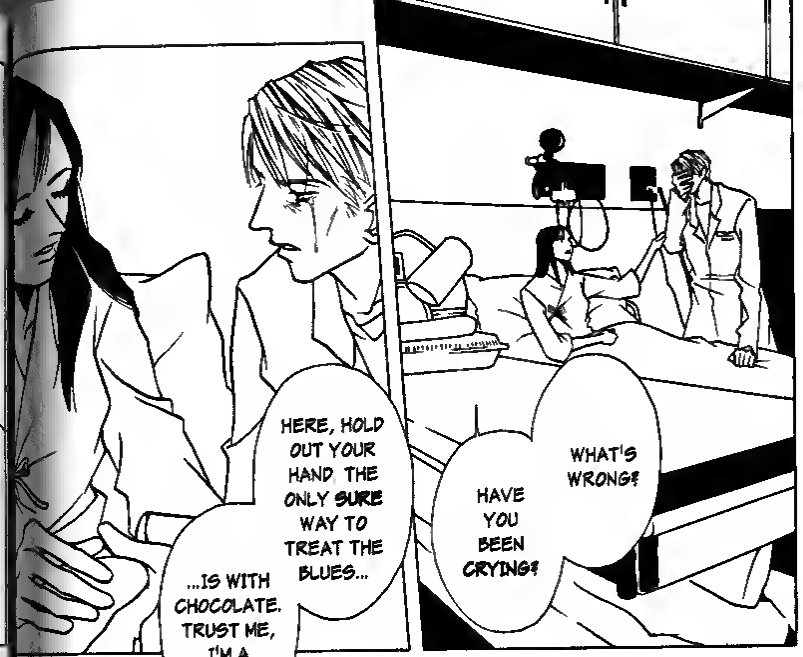
DO YOU... KNOW WHO I AM?
OF... COURSE
YOU'RE MY HUSBAND. MOTOHIKO KIRISHIMA.
AND YOU ARE?
I'M...
MOTOHIKO, WHAT IS THIS? ARE YOU UNWELL?
HUMOR ME..
VERY WELL. I'M.. KAORU KIRISHIMA, PROJECT LEADER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STEROL-2 DOLL. MY PASSIONS ARE HORTICULTURE AND CHOCOLATE
PERFECT!

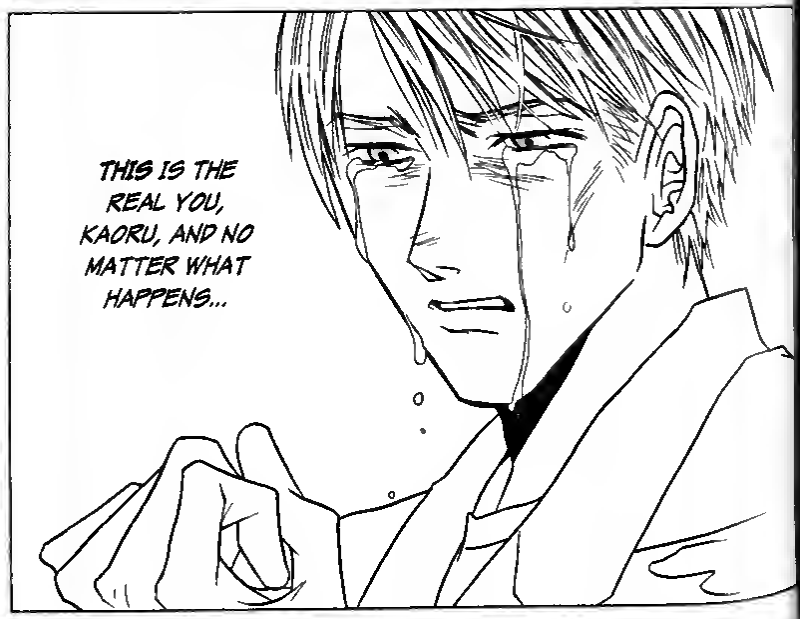
FORGIVE ME, KAORU... BUT I CANNOT LET YOU GO!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
KAORU? KAORU!
OPEN YOUR EYES...

IN SCIENCE, AS IN LIFE, THERE ARE LINES YOU SHOULDN'T CROSS.



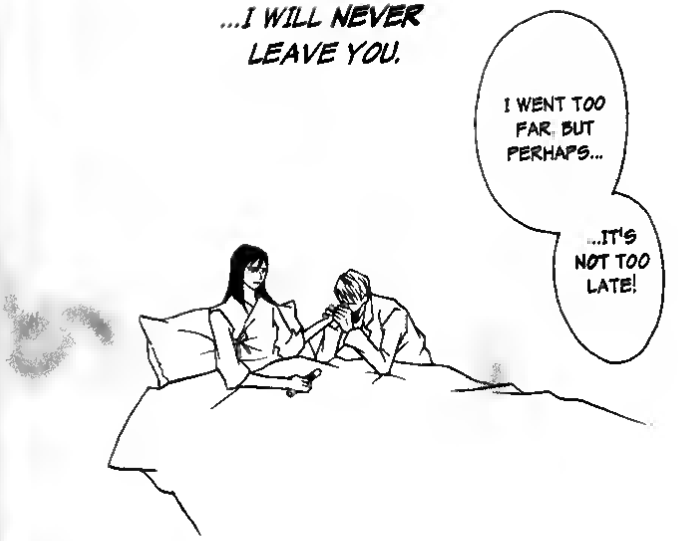


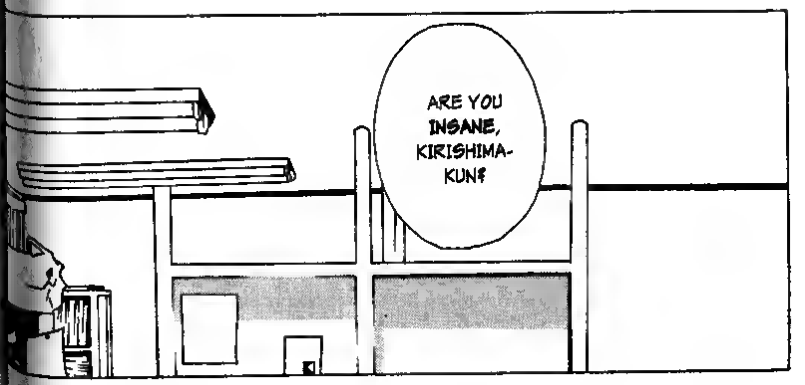

WHAT'S WRONG?
HAVE YOU BEEN CRYING?
HERE, HOLD OUT YOUR HAND. THE ONLY SURE WAY TO TREAT THE BLUES...
...IS WITH CHOCOLATE. TRUST ME, I'M A DOCTOR!


THIS IS THE REAL YOU, KAORU, AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...

CLOSE
MY ONLY STIPULATION IS THAT NO PART OF OUR WORK BE USED TO CREATE LIKENESSES OF ACTUAL PEOPLE
AND THERE WILL BE NO TRANSPLANT-ING OF HUMAN MEMORIES INTO A DOLL
ALL OUR STEROL 2 NOTES ARE YOUR DISPOS SIR, AND I'VE BRIEFED THE RESEARCH TEAM THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE I'M SURE THEY LL MANAGE
BUT ..!

YOU'D HAVE BEEN INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS!
PLEASE RECONSIDER! THIS IS YOUR LIFE'S WORK YOU'RE GIVING UP!
THAT...NO LONGER MATTERS.


...I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU.
I WENT TOO FAR. BUT PERHAPS...
...IT'S NOT TOO LATE!


ARE YOU INSANE, KIRISHIMA-KUN?

NO, SORRY...
...I'VE PUT AWAY ALL MY MAGIC TRICKS.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
MISTER! HEY...MISTER!
WHO...
...ARE YOU?
WOW!
MA-MA!
SEE, DIDN'T I TELL YOU? HE'S A GENIUS. A.. MAGICIAN!
DID'YA FIX MARI'S DOLL, DID YA?
YES. GOOD AS NEW.

LIST 5

5. AYAKO

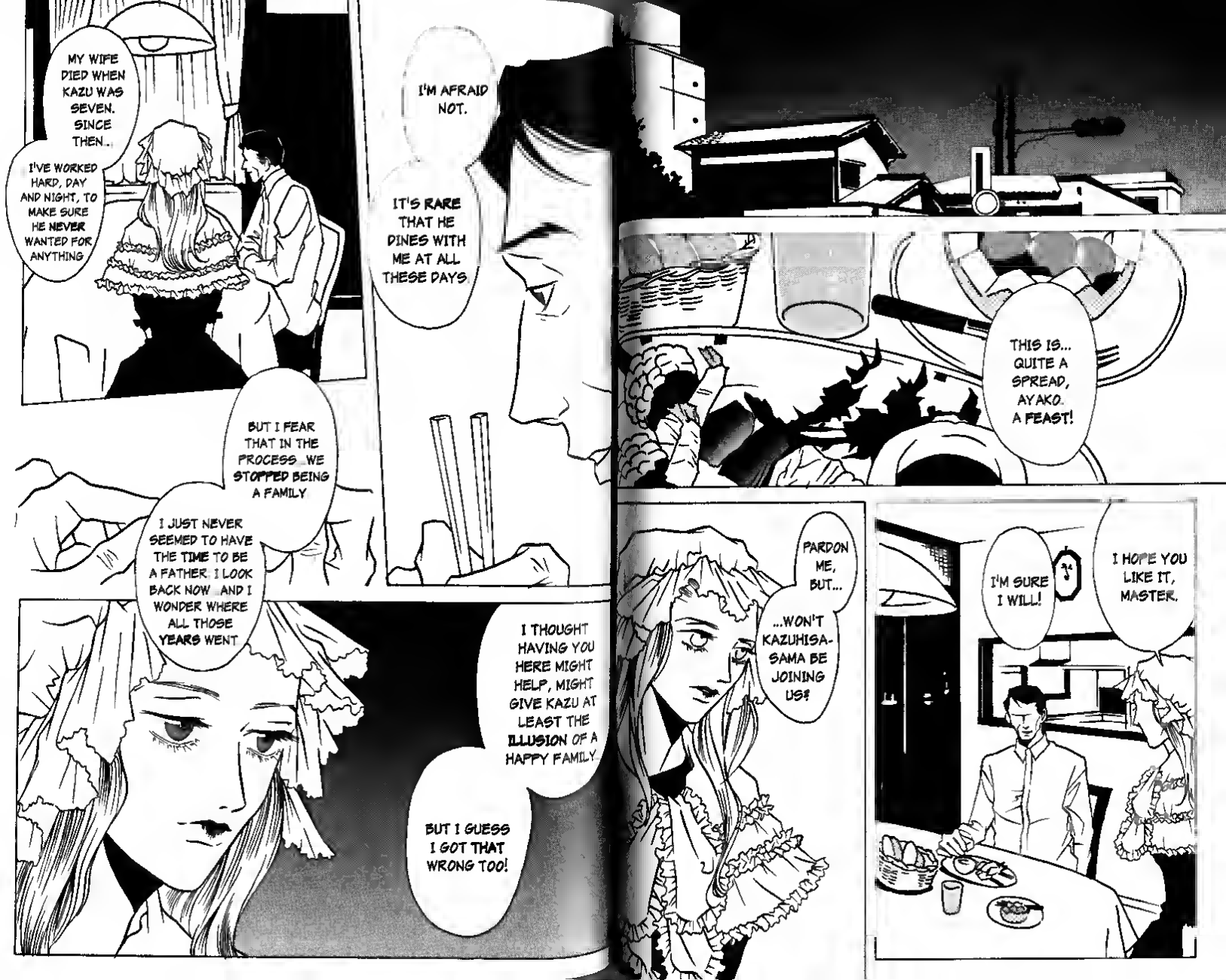
I WONDER... HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE HE LAST MADE EYE-CONTACT WITH ME AT THE DINNER TABLE?

SINCE HIS MOTHER DIED, HE'S BEEN... QUITE A HANDFUL. I SHOULD ALSO APOLOGIZE
...FOR THE STATE OF THIS HOUSE. I'M AFRAID I'VE STRUGGLED MYSELF SOMETIMES, TO KEEP THINGS STRAIGHT
I REALLY THOUGHT HE'D BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU. I. JUST DON'T KNOW HIM THESE DAYS!
NO PROBLEM
JUST TELL ME WHERE TO START.
OH. YES.
PLEASE START WITH THE DISHES, AYAKO. ER.. IT IS OKAY TO CALL YOU AYAKO? ISN'T IT?

...FOR HOUSEHOLD CHORES, MAYBE, TRIPS TO THE STORE CAN EVEN COOK!
THOUGHT WHAT? WHAT DO WE WANT WITH A DOLL?
YES. I USED SOME OF OUR SAVINGS. I THOUGHT...
...ARE FOR LOSERS!
YOU THINK I'M GOING EAT SOMETHING PREPARED BY A MACHINE?! NO WAY! THESE THINGS..
KAZUHISA!
.....
SLAM!

I WISH MY DAD WOULD BUY ME A DOLL. ONE WITH THE WHERE-WITHAL, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
OH PLEASE!
...AND INSIDE HE'S SHRIVELLED UP, LIKE A WALNUT.
HARSH!
I WON'T BECOME LIKE HIM...I WON'T!
IT'S JUST LIKE HIM TO PULL A STUNT LIKE THIS
ONE LESS REASON TO HAVE A GO AT BEING A PROPER FAMILY AGAIN! IT'S LIKE HE'S GROWN THIS SHELL...

OH YES. YOU CAN CALL ME WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
SOUNDS OKAY TO ME! WITH A DOLL...YOU CAN HAVE SEX WHENEVER YOU WANT!
A DOLL!
WHY COULDN'T HE HAVE AT LEAST FOUND HIMSELF A REAL WOMAN?
NO THANKS! AND ANYWAY, I DON'T THINK IT DOES THAT. IT'S A DOMESTIC MODEL.
SHAME. I WAS GOING TO ASK TO BORROW HER...


MY WIFE DIED WHEN KAZU WAS SEVEN. SINCE THEN..
I'VE WORKED HARD, DAY AND NIGHT, TO MAKE SURE HE NEVER WANTED FOR ANYTHING
I'M AFRAID NOT.
IT'S RARE THAT HE DINES WITH ME AT ALL THESE DAYS
BUT I FEAR THAT IN THE PROCESS WE STOPPED BEING A FAMILY
I JUST NEVER SEEMED TO HAVE THE TIME TO BE A FATHER. I LOOK BACK NOW AND I WONDER WHERE ALL THOSE YEARS WENT
I THOUGHT HAVING YOU HERE MIGHT HELP, MIGHT GIVE KAZU AT LEAST THE ILLUSION OF A HAPPY FAMILY.
BUT I GUESS I GOT THAT WRONG TOO!
THIS IS... QUITE A SPREAD, AYAKO. A FEAST!
PARDON ME, BUT...
...WON'T KAZUHISA-SAMA BE JOINING US?
I'M SURE I WILL!
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT, MASTER.

YOU NEVER RE-MARRIED?
YOU MUST HAVE LOVED HER A GREAT DEAL.
YES...
...A GREAT DEAL!
PERHAPS THIS CAN STILL BE A FAMILY AGAIN. FOR HIS SAKE, AND MINE, I HAVE TO TRY.
EESH
AH, KAZUHISA-SAMA.
WELCOME HOME!
WOULD YOU LIKE DINNER?
NO.

WE'RE A PROPER FAMILY NOW...
YOU, ME AND OUR LITTLE KAZU!
IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE, ISN'T IT...
...MY DARLING!

I COULD WARM UP SOME SOUP. IT'S NO TROUBLE...
I SAID...NO!

NOW CLEAN THAT UP.
ZUHISA!

...HELLLLP!
EARTHQUAKE! SOMEONE...
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WHAT?!

I SINCERELY HOPE...
...THAT SOMEONE FINDS US SOON!
I AM FINE, THANK YOU. BUT I ALSO CANNOT MOVE
IF I DO, THE BEAM WILL COLLAPSE, AND WITH IT THE REST OF THE ROOF!
AYAKO? WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU..?
K--
KAZU! WHERE'S KAZUHISA?
YES. PERHAPS...
I DON'T KNOW.
HE WAS UPSTAIRS, I THINK. PERHAPS HE WAS BETTER OFF, SAFER...
...TER!
...STER!
OWRRR...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I...YES. NO... MY LEG...IT'S TRAPPED!
MASTER!

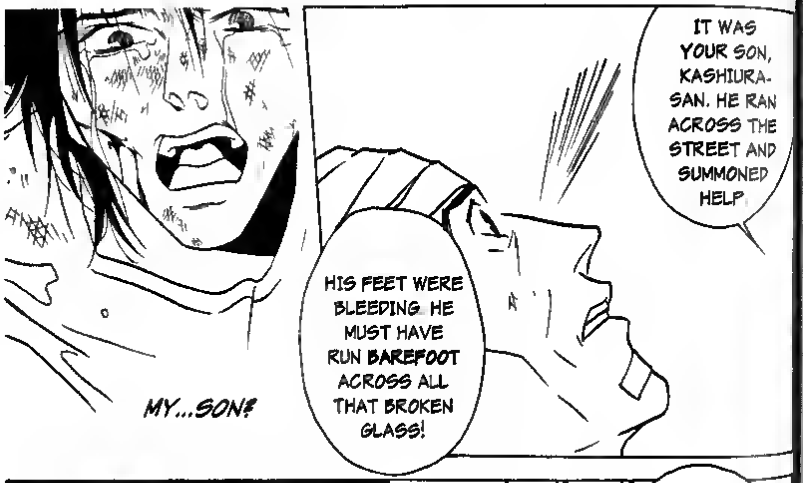
PLEASE... DO NOT ASK THIS OF ME!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, AYAKO.
HE'S BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME!
NO!
REALLY!
KAZUHISA WILL BE WELL PROVIDED FOR I HAVE..LIFE INSURANCE.
YOU SPEAK OF YOUR OWN LIFE AS IF IT IS WORTHLESS IT'S NOT!
IT'S..HOPELESS ...
AYAKO!
YES, MASTER!
RRNT!
Freak!
RNT!
YOU CAN LET GO NOW.
I'M READY.

CAN YOU HEAR ME? FATHER...

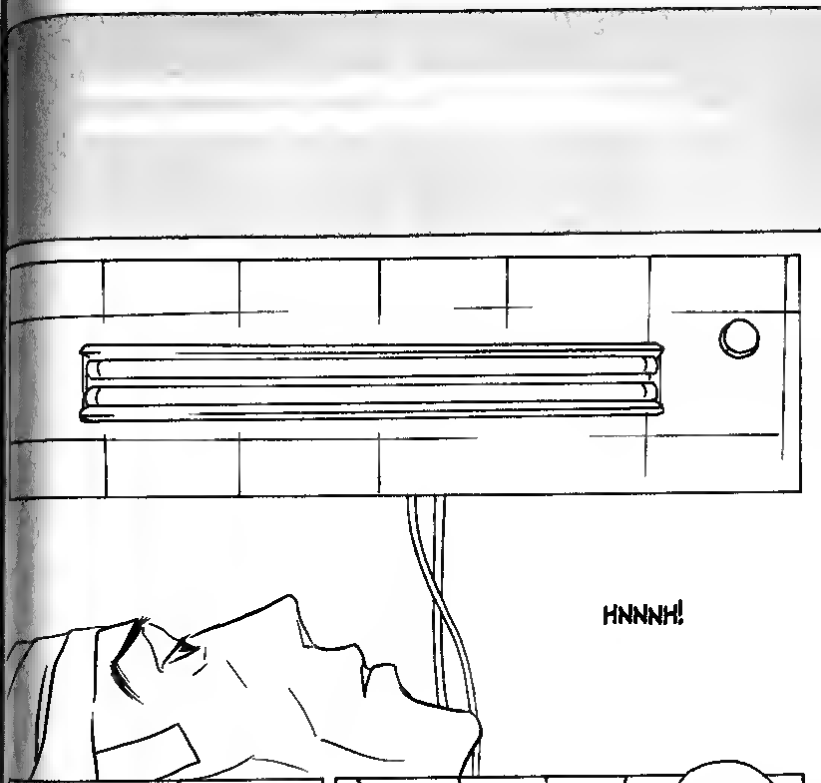
...DON'T LEAVE ME!

AND THEN MY WORLD FELL IN!

WHICH MEANS I'M ALIVE. DO I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THAT?
OH YES! I CAN HEAR YOU...


MY...SON?
HIS FEET WERE BLEEDING. HE MUST HAVE RUN BAREFOOT ACROSS ALL THAT BROKEN GLASS!
IT WAS YOUR SON, KASHIURA-SAN. HE RAN ACROSS THE STREET AND SUMMONED HELP!

I THINK YOU MIGHT WELL BE DEAD. YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL!
YES! IF HE HADN'T REACHED US WHEN HE DID..


HNNNH!

KASHIURA-SAN! CAN YOUR HEAR ME?
IT WAS A TERRIBLE SHOCK! LOOK AT ME...I'M STILL SHAKING!
LOOK... HE'S AWAKE!
THANK GOODNESS!

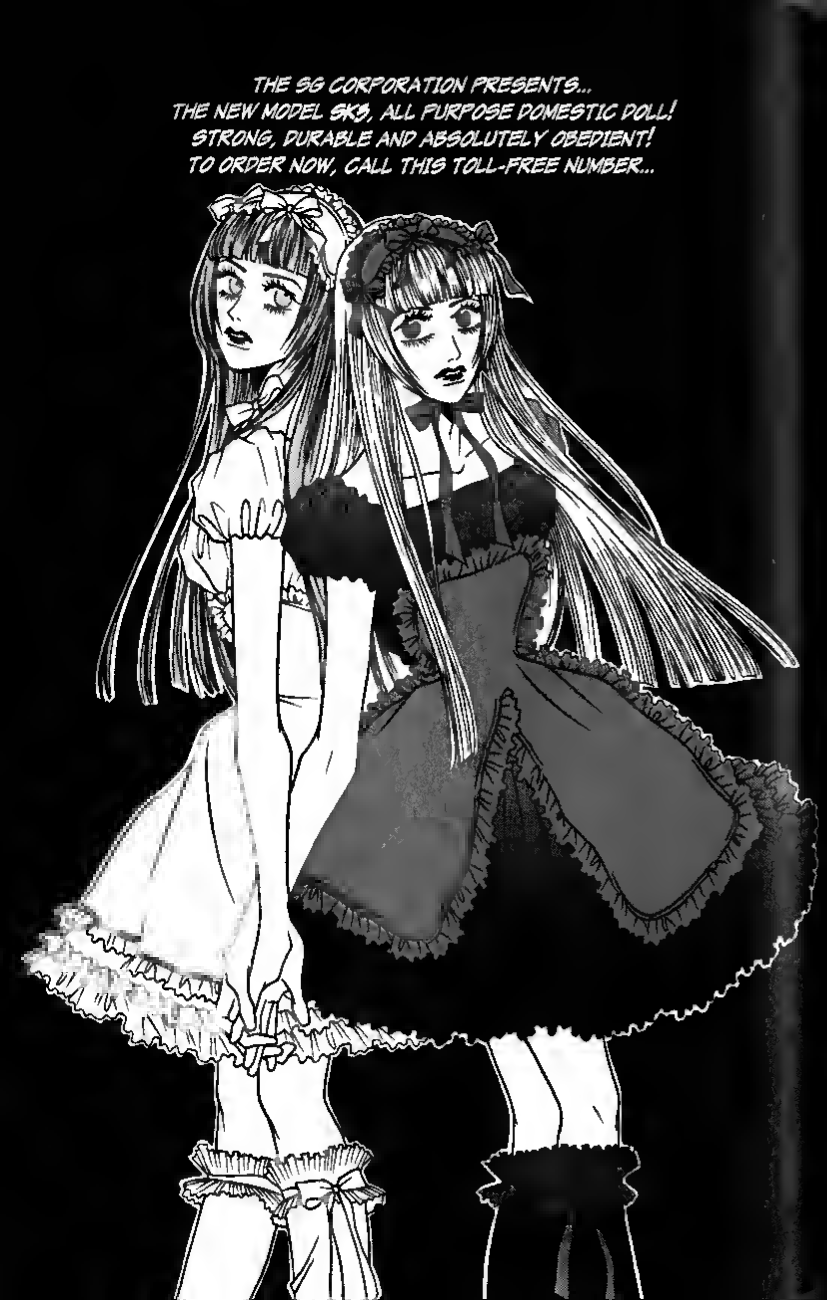
IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD LEAVE HIM TO DIE... NOT JUST FOR BEING A JERK! HE IS MY DAD, AFTER ALL
LOOK... YOU DID GOOD. AND... I'M SORRY. FOR HITTING YOU THANKS
..BUT I AM!
OH...
...AYAKO!
NO...THANK YOU!
I UNDERSTAND YOU KEPT HOLDING THAT BEAM, EVEN WHEN THE REST OF THE ROOF STARTED TO COLLAPSE
YES. BUT YOU BROUGHT HELP.
?
YOU'RE WELCOME...

LIST 6

I THINK...
...WE'LL BE ALRIGHT NOW. THE THREE OF US...

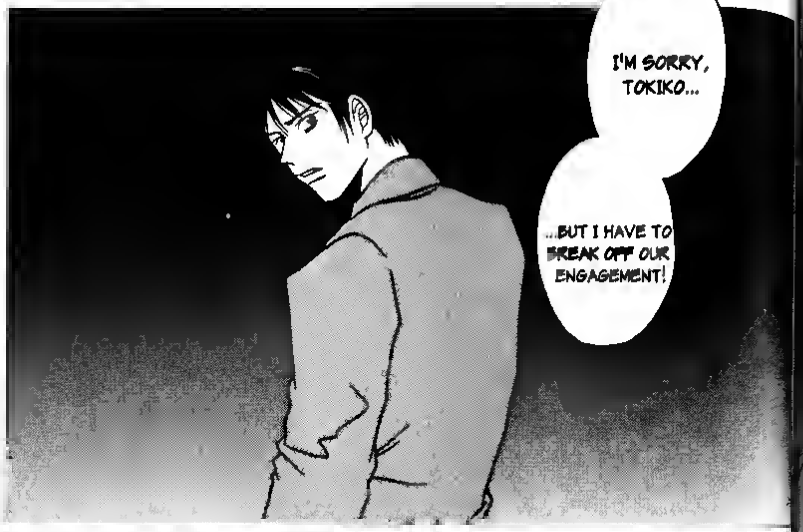
...ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY!

END

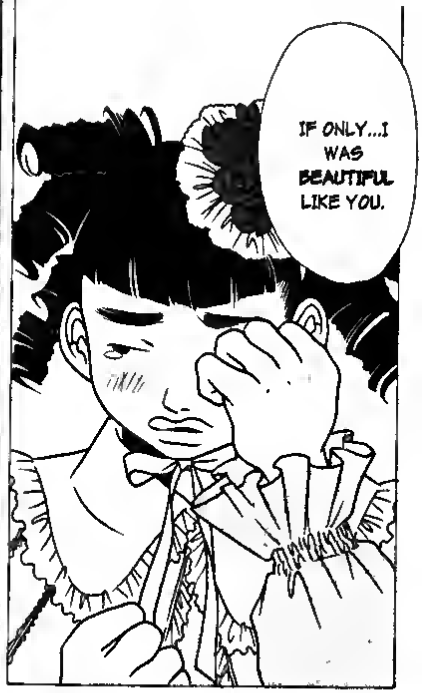

THE SG CORPORATION PRESENTS...
THE NEW MODEL SK9, ALL PURPOSE DOMESTIC DOLL!
STRONG, DURABLE AND ABSOLUTELY OBEDIENT!
TO ORDER NOW, CALL THIS TOLL-FREE NUMBER...

HEY! HERE SHE COMES.
LOOK AT HER! WHEN THEY HANDED OUT THE LOOKS...
..SHE WAS LAST IN LINE!
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME. THEY ALL POINT...
...AND TURN AWAY.
HERE NOW, DON'T CRY.

I'M UGLY!


I'M SORRY, TOKIKO...
...BUT I HAVE TO BREAK OFF OUR ENGAGEMENT!

STRESS... YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL!


IF ONLY...I WAS BEAUTIFUL LIKE YOU.

...I BEG YOU! DON'T GO!

NO, HIDEO...
I JUST CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THIS MARRIAGE OUR PARENTS ARRANGED FOR US. I...
...LOVE SOMEONE ELSE!

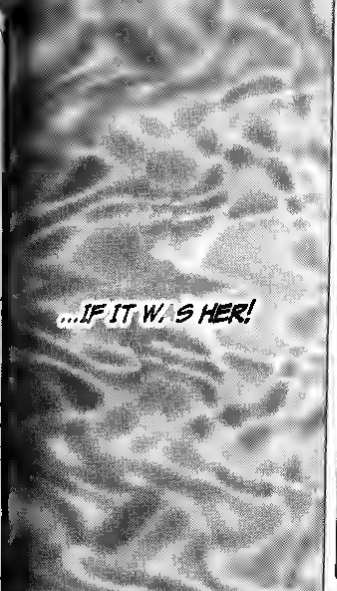
IF IT WERE, HIDEO-SAN WOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT ME!
YOU'RE KIND. BUT IT'S NOT SO.

MISTRESS! WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME!
OH! I...
...WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE
THAT MAID, YUKAKO.. THE ONE WHO SEDUCED HIDEO...SHE HAD A KNIFE, AND SHE WAS STABBING, STABBING...
THERE, THERE.
YOUR FACE...
...IT'S SCRATCHED!

...WHEN I COULD OFFER HIM SO MUCH MORE?! HE'S MINE NOW...MINE!
SILLY GIRL. DID YOU THINK HE'D WANT AN UGLY, STUNTED THING LIKE YOU..
NO... NO!!
MISTRESS?!

IF I CANNOT TURN TO YOU, WHO ELSE IS THERE?

SOMEONE... HURT MY DOLL.
I THINK IT WAS...
...SOME PERVERT!
TOKIKO-SAN...
...YOU ARE NO LONGER MY RESPONSIBILITY.
DO NOT PHONE AGAIN.
HIDEO?


...IF IT WAS HER!

DID SOMEONE DO THAT TO YOU?
DID SOMEONE HURT YOU?
IT'S NOTHING.
IT IS! ESPECIALLY...

トゥルルルル...
トゥルルルル...
ガチャッ
HELLO?
HIDEO-SAN? IT'S TOKIKO WE NEED TO TALK!

MY PARENTS DISOWNED ME! THEY KEEP ME HERE IN THIS SECOND HOME, OUT OF SIGHT... OUT OF MIND.
THE NEIGHBORS LOOK AT ME WITH COLD, CURIOUS DREAD
AND HIDEO-SAN LEFT ME FOR THE MAID!
MY LIFE SUCKS!

I WAS ONCE TOLD... A BEAUTIFUL MIND KNOWS TRUE HAPPINESS.
IT'S A LIE!
OD IS NISHING ...AND I 'T KNOW WHY!
YOU...
...DO NOT GIVE YOURSELF ENOUGH CREDIT. YOU ARE LOVED.
OH? WHO BY?

:
YUKAKO! THAT BITCH!

YOU HAVE ME. I WILL NEVER TURN AWAY FROM YOU.
I KNOW. AND I'M SORRY...
...BUT YOUR BEAUTY JUST REMINDS ME OF MY OWN SHORTCOMINGS.

DOES IT HURT? OH...YOU POOR THING!
REALLY. IT'S NOTHING.
OH GOD! IT'S HER... I WAS RIGHT!
SHE'S THE ONE DOING THIS!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
FIRST SHE STEALS MY FIANCÉ...THEN SHE DOES THIS TO YOU. SHE... MUST BE DERANGED. MAYBE EVEN HOMICIDAL.
HIDEO-SAN HIMSELF COULD BE IN DANGER!

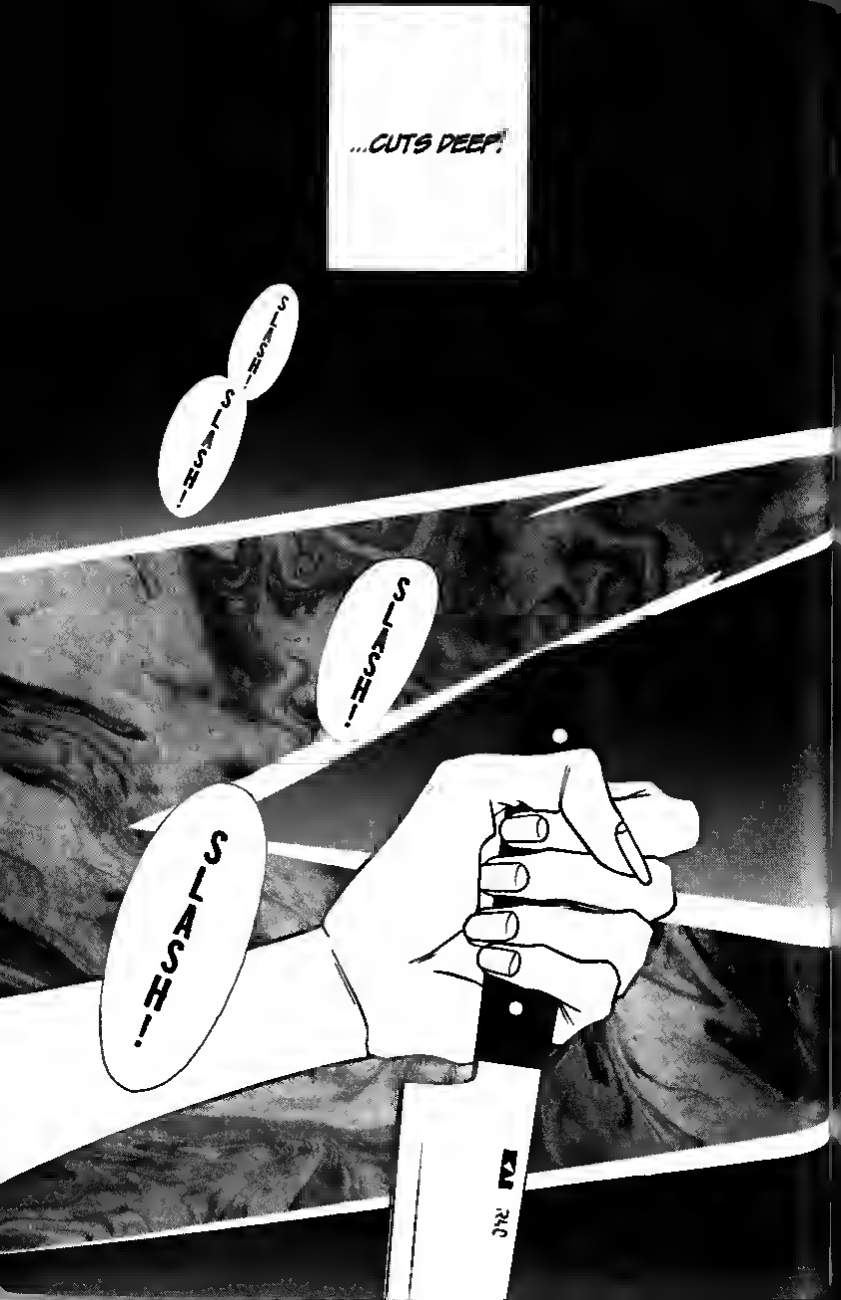
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET AWAY FROM HER!
YOU'VE NO BUSINESS HERE...GO!
DID...DID SHE SAY ANYTHING, DO ANY...

NO!

PLEASE...
YOU CAN'T WIN. HE'S MINE, TO DO WITH AS I PLEASE.
RIGHT NOW, HE'S TO MY LIKING. BUT I BORE EASILY. MAYBE IN A FEW YEARS YOU CAN HAVE HIM BACK... MINUS HIS FACE!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA.
AS FOR YOU, YOUR FACE IS SO HIDEOUS ALREADY...
...DON'T!
...IT'LL TAKE ME ONLY HALF THE USUAL TIME!
NO!

I CAN'T!
I HAD TO! HIDEO, YOU'RE IN DANGER!
THE ONE WHO'S BEEN HURTING MY DOLL...IT'S YUKAKO!
WHAT?
HELLO?
RING!
RING!
RING!
HIDEO-SAN... IT'S ME!
TOKIKO?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME AGAIN!
IT'S TRUE, I SWEAR IT. HIDEO, PLEASE...
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

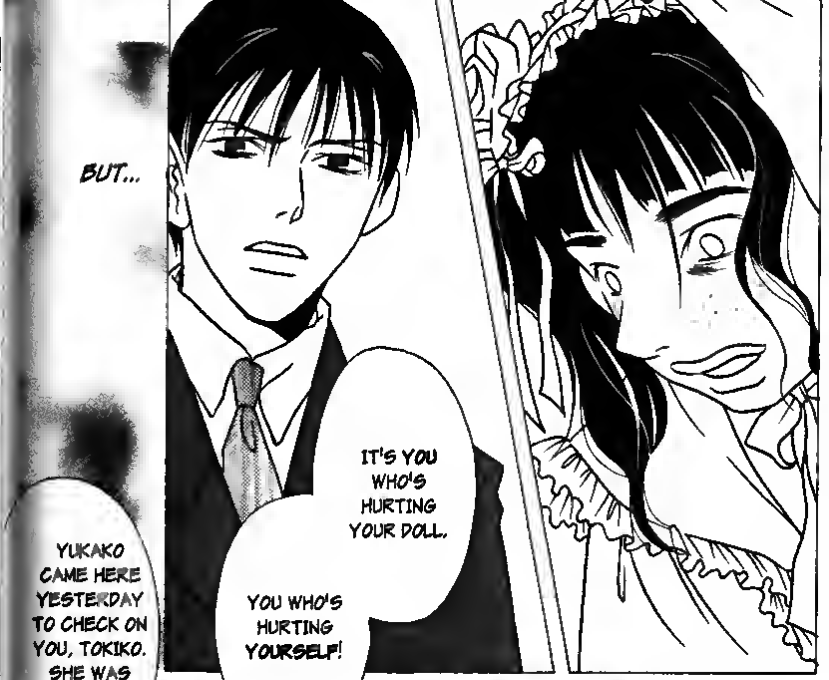
SHE WON'T STOP... SHE'LL KEEP ON HURTING YOU.
I'M FINE. REALLY. I FEEL .. NOTHING
MORE SCARS!
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
YOU MUST! SOME PART OF YOU MUST HATE HER FOR WHAT'S SHE'S DOING, MUST ACHE FOR REVENGE!
I KNOW WHAT I SAID BEFORE, BUT YOUR BEAUTY IS ALL THAT I HAVE...
AND EVEN THAT SHE'S TAKING FROM ME!
LET IT GO, MISTRESS. PLEASE.

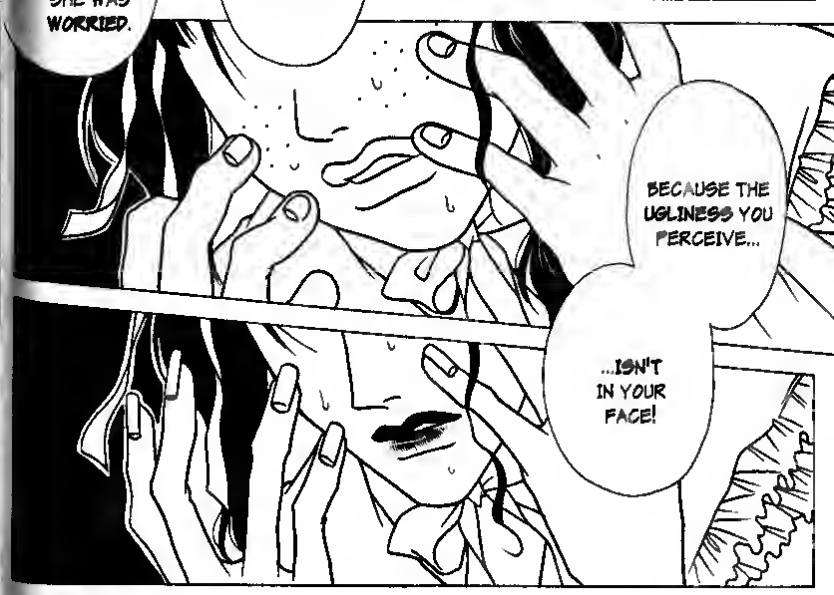

...CUTS DEEP!
SLASH-
SLASH-
SLASH-

THAT'S ENOUGH! I WON'T LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF THIS! TOKIKO...YOU NEED HELP!
...GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN!
IT'S NO GOOD. HE'S UNDER HER SPELL, HE MUST BE!
HIDEO?!
HIDEO?!
HE CANNOT SEE PAST HER BEAUTY.
WHILE MY UGLINESS...

ENOUGH!
HIDEO?
CAN'T YOU SEE, TOKIKO?
SLASH!
SLASH!
SLASH!
PLEASE! DON'T HURT HER!
SLASH!
DON'T HURT MY DOLL! DON'T...
SLASH!
...HURT ME!

IT'S IN YOUR MIND. REMEMBER?

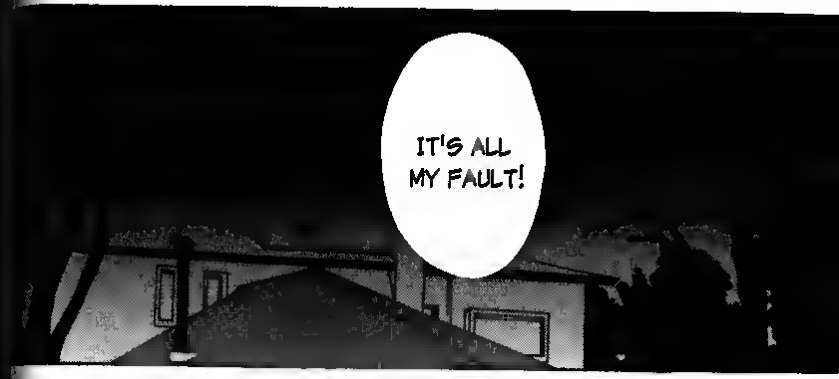

BUT...
YUKAKO CAME HERE YESTERDAY TO CHECK ON YOU, TOKIKO. SHE WAS WORRIED.
IT'S YOU WHO'S HURTING YOUR DOLL.
YOU WHO'S HURTING YOURSELF!


BECAUSE THE UGLINESS YOU PERCEIVE...
...ISN'T IN YOUR FACE!

DON'T GO, HIDEO...I'M WARNING YOU!
ALL YOU NEVER HAD.
YUKAKO HAS ALL I EVER WANTED, TOKIKO. WARMTH, PASSION, PERSONALITY.
I.. REMEMBER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE LEAVING ME? YOU CAN'T! NOT FOR HER!
I HAVE MONEY, POWER, POSITION! SHE'S JUST THE MAID!

LET'S SEE HOW KEEN YOU ARE ON HER...
...WHEN I'M DONE CARVING HER UP LIKE A ROAST!
I REMEMBER!
HER MIND MUST HAVE SNAPPED. WHAT A SCANDAL!
SHE ATTACKED HER OWN MAID, WITH A KNIFE! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
THANK GOD YUKAKO DIDN'T GO TO THE POLICE...
YOU HAVE BROUGHT SHAME ON OUR FAMILY!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, TOKIKO?
...YOU LEAVING ME FOR THAT BITCH!
I REMEMBER...
GOODBYE, TOKIKO. AND THIS TIME...
...IT'S FOR GOOD.
SHE'S—

I HAVE MONEY, POWER, POSITION.
WHY...WOULD HE LEAVE ME?



...I'M UGLY!

MISTRESS! TEA IS SERVED.

OH! YOUR FACE! WHAT HAPPENED? THEY'RE SO...

...UGLY.

UGLY LIKE ME.

THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHY HE LEFT ME...

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

DOLL

SIX NEW TALES OF
ANDROIDS AND ANGST, INCLUDING:

MIKA

Machines are meant to do jobs that are too dangerous, dirty or distasteful for humans...but there are some unpleasant tasks even they cannot manage. At her workplace, Mika picks up where the dolls leave off. What can one mousy woman do better than any doll... and how long can she keep it up?

MOTHER

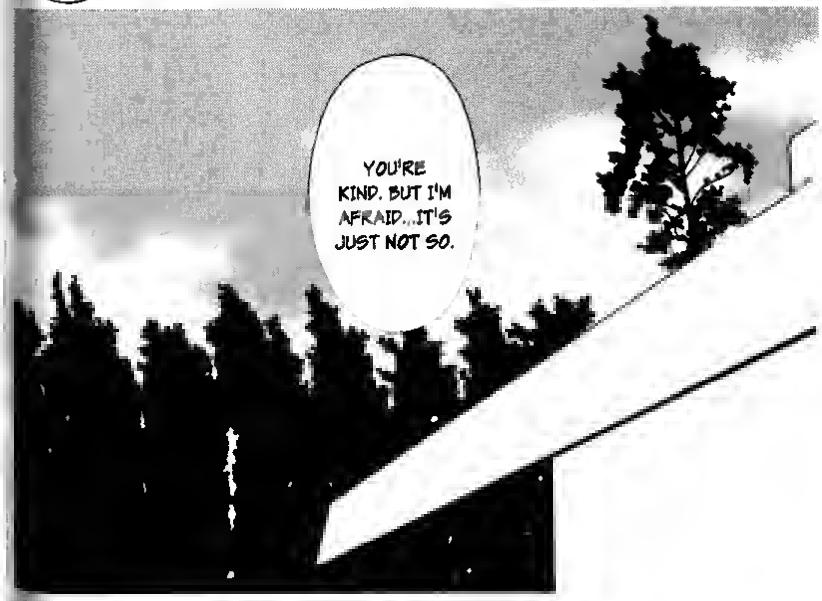
Meet the Remodeler, someone who illegally alters dolls for money. The Remodeler's neighbors are a single mom and her young son, who believes that--if he's good--Santa Claus will bring him a gift. When the law shows up at the Remodeler's home, find out what comes to those who have been naughty and those who have been nice!

MAKOTO

Makoto can see people's past and future. Her special ability is accompanied by special treatment and special limitations...and she hates every minute of it. How does the introduction of a boy doll affect this fortune-teller's vision of her own future?

S

When the doll manufacturing SG Corporation is threatened by an anti-doll terrorist group, they call upon a very special doll known only as S...which was originally created to assassinate illegally remodeled dolls!



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